US thanks RP again; GMA renews support for terror war

Story below, Column I

Shortest stint as CIDG top honcho: 24 hours

By TJ Burgonio

WILL the real chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group please stand up?

Less than 24 hours after the National Police

SHORTEST/A18

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Bush to UN: Act or else

Why US gov't raised global alert warning

INFORMATION that impelled US President George W. Bush to raise the global alert warning on Tuesday came from two operatives of the head of al-Qaida's military committee who lived in Manila in the mid-1990s, the CNN reported last night.

Khalid Shaikh Mohammed is the key planner for last year's Sept. 11 attacks on the United States and one of four key lieutenants of Osama bin Laden, according to US authorities. He is one of the world's most wanted men, carrying a reward of $25 million.

A day before the Sept. 11 attacks, Mohammed directed Mohammed Mansour Jabarah to activate al-Qaida cells in Southeast Asia, Asian sources told CNN.

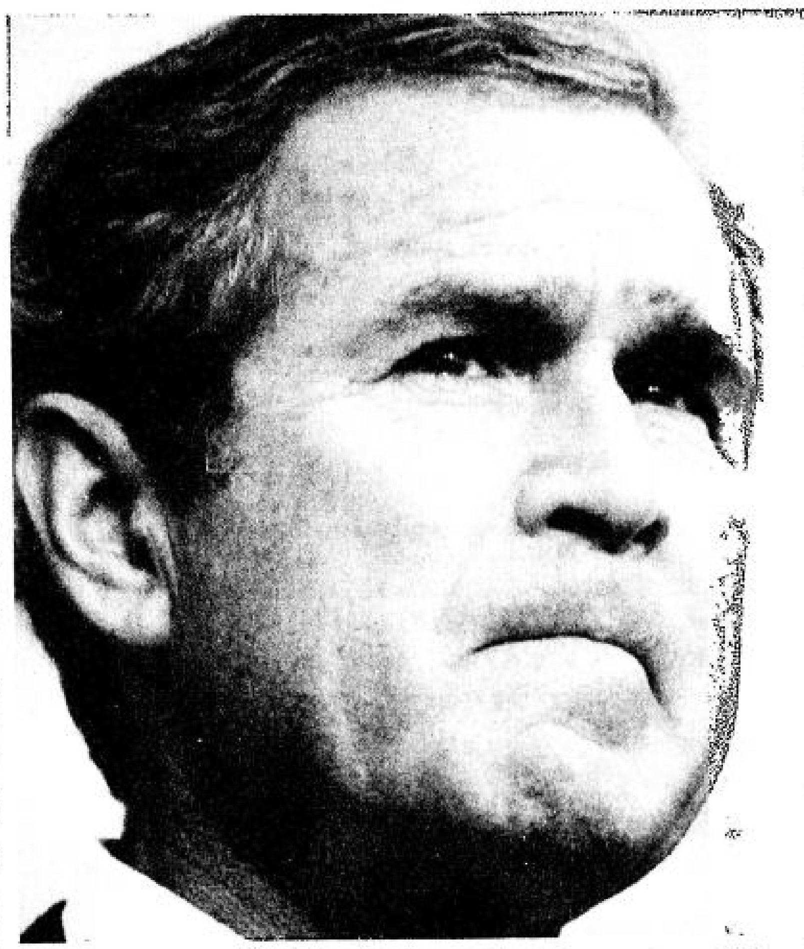
"At least one of Mohammed's plans after last year's Sept. 11 attacks worked: the truck bombing of a Tunisian synagogue in April that killed 19 people. German officials say that three hours before the attack, the suspected bomber made one call to Khalid Shaikh Mohammed," CNN Jakarta bureau chief Maria Ressa said.

US authorities say the blueprint for the Sept. 11 attacks goes back to 1995 when Mohammed lived in the Philippines masquerading as a wealthy Saudi sheik, according to officials in Manila.

He was secretly indicted by the US for his role in a 1995 Manila plot to bomb US airlines. Philippine authorities claim he's the uncle of Ramzi Yousef, the convicted mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

Col. Rodolfo Mendoza, head of the Philippine counter-terrorist operations in 1995, said Mohammed "is a key player. He is educated. He

WHY /A19



US PRESIDENT BUSH: Going it alone in the midst of reluctant allies and UN caution.

GETTY IMAGES

NEW YORK—US President George W. Bush urged the United Nations to compel Iraq to disarm, backing his appeal with a hefty document accusing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein of a decade of deception and defiance of 16 UN resolutions.

Bush made his case against the backdrop of widespread disinclination among US allies to use force against Baghdad and a caution from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan that the United States should not take action against Saddam without UN Security Council backing.

Bush took the floor in the great assembly chamber shortly after Annan, telling world leaders that Saddam must disarm "or action will be unavoidable."

"Iraq has answered a decade of UN demands with a decade of defiance," Bush said. "All the world now faces a test ... and the United Nations, a difficult and defining moment. Are Security Council resolutions to be honored and enforced ... or cast aside without consequence? Will the United Nations serve the purpose of its founding ... or will it be irrelevant?"

The Bush administration has made clear it feels justified in going it alone if necessary and contends it does not need new legal authority to use force to try to oust Saddam.

The implicit warning of US military action to remove Saddam from power would be contained in a UN Security Council resolution proposed by Britain. A veto by Russia, China or France would kill the measure.

In a document circulated in advance of Bush's

BUSH/ A18

91 world leaders light eternal flame

NEW YORK—A global tragedy, a symbol that will endure forever.

World leaders and officials from 91 countries lit an eternal flame Wednesday night (Thursday morning, Manila time) at the site of the interim memorial to the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist strikes.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, US Secretary of State Colin Powell and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg led the lighting rites which honored the global origins of many of the victims. The city's tally showed that close to 500 victims had foreign origins, coming from 91 countries.

"For our country, Sept. 11 will always be a day for sorrow, the heartbreaking anniversary of great loss we share with 91 nations," Bloomberg said.

The choice of memorial was fitting, as the attacks sparked huge fires, some of which continued to burn for months.

Bloomberg lit the flame at The Sphere, a sculpture that stood in the fountain of the World Trade Center plaza and was damaged in the fall of the twin towers.

91 /A18

US thanks RP; GMA renews support

By Jennie L. Ilustre
PDI Washington correspondent

WASHINGTON—Americans' second highest-ranking military officer has thanked the Philippines for its role in the global war against terrorism and explained that the second Balikatan joint exercise would not focus on a specific mission.

The expression of gratitude came even as President Macapagal-Arroyo, in a letter to President George W. Bush, renewed the country's "resolve to press on with the counter-terrorism campaign in concert with other nations to secure the safety of our citizens and of the world."

Gen. Peter Pace, vice chair of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he wanted to personally thank the Philippine government and its citizens "for the tremendous cooperation we've had together this past year."

Pace added in a press briefing on the eve of the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks on America that "the exercise that ended

US THANKS /A18

Rush of pain hits heroic Pinay nurse

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A rush of pain hit Filipino nurse Rebecca Canalija as she was reading the names of the victims of the bombing of the World Trade Center during the emotionally charged memorial rites in Ground Zero in New York on Wednesday morning.

"I was reliving the (painful) moments," said Rebecca, who was one of those honored to read the names of the dead. Much awarded for staying put in the hospital for days and long into the nights to care for the wounded and the dying, Rebecca was the emergency room nurse at the New York University Downtown Hospital when the terror attacks

RUSH /A19

REBECCA CANALIJA: Meeting VIPs was the good side; the rest of it was pain.

Nicole, 9, mom to her brother, fights for her life

By Cathy Babao-Guballa

NINE-YEAR-OLD Nicole Figueroa became a "mom" to her baby brother Kevin when their mother passed away six months ago. And now she is fighting for her own life.

Nicole, a bright third-grader at the Marymount School, was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia a couple of weeks before her birthday on July 8.

"AML leukemia," the worst form of cancer of the white blood cells, radically diminishes the immune system's capacity to fight infection. If it is not properly checked or cured, the patient can die from bleeding, overwhelming infection and organ failure within months.

The ailment mostly strikes adults. But such statistics offer no comfort to Nicole, who is now confined at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital in Manila.

Black-haired, black-eyed Nicole is the only daughter and second of the three children of Ferdinand Figueroa and Irene

NICOLE/A20

BACK TO CRIME SCENE: With Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo, the President returned to the site in Antipolo where P1.8-billion worth of suspected smuggled rice was found in container vans and where she had a close brush with the law.

EDWIN BACASMAS

RP draws brickbats for support of US plan to attack Iraq

MALACAÑANG yesterday drew brickbats for its apparent support of the US government's planned attack on Iraq.

According to House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo "unnecessarily exposed to danger" the lives of Filipinos in that country with its earlier offer of Philippine air space for use by the US government.

The Philippines "courted the ire" of Iraq with that move, which, Padilla said in a phone interview, was now compelling the administration to evacuate the 118 Filipinos there.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona also cautioned the administration against supporting America's planned war in the absence of a United Nations resolution.

He warned that the US plan would not only displace Filipinos working in Iraq but also trigger an increase in the price of oil and, as a result, the prices of other basic commodities.

"We are already in deficit. We are even importing some of the food that we need. We are importing rice. The prices might go up," he said.

Sammy Malunes, spokesperson of the militant labor alliance Kilusang Mayo Uno, said that if the President were indeed concerned about the safety of Filipinos in Iraq, she should withdraw support from the planned US attack.

He also said Ms Macapagal's order on Wednesday for the immediate evacuation of Filipinos there was not enough because she had to consider their future livelihood.

"Her job goes beyond ensuring the safe return of Filipinos from Iraq," Malunes said. "Malacañang and the labor department must also execute emergency measures that will provide employment not

RP /A18

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Second FRONT PAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/13/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

9/11 flight phobia

PASSENGERS flocked to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Thursday, having shunned air travel a day earlier on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

"This morning our passenger load factor increased. We expect this to persist until Friday (the 13th)," Naia general manager Ed Manda said on dzBB radio.

He said there was a 50 percent reduction of passengers on Wednesday.

Manda did not give specific figures.

AFP

UNAUTHORIZED CARGO BUILDING

Inspector reports violation in Terminal 3 construction

By Rocky Nazareno

THE JAPANESE firm contracted to undertake the "quality assurance inspection" of the $525-million Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport has declared that the project contractor, the Philippine International Air Terminal Co., failed to conform to the "approved tender design" when it proceeded to build a cargo terminal at the site.

In an Aug. 14 letter to Manila International Airport Authority project manager Florencio Montalbo Jr., the Japan Airport Consultants' Hideaki Iida said Piatco had gone on to build a cargo terminal in the areas designated for a wastewater treatment plant and a parking lot.

Cease and desist

As a result of the Jaci letter, the MIAA issued a cease-and-desist order for Piatco to stop the construction of the three-story cargo terminal.

The order could prove to be yet another obstacle to Piatco's Nov. 26 target opening for the new terminal.

Iida is the quality assurance director of Jaci, the Japanese consultancy firm hired by the government and Piatco to conduct an independent inspection of Terminal 3 to determine whether it conforms with international safety and efficiency standards.

Iida said Jaci's quality assurance inspector who inspected the site "was not aware" of any structures being approved for this area by the MIAA or the government.

He said it was found in a subsequent investigation that the structure being constructed was a cargo terminal.

Iida disclosed that Piatco had earlier requested that the site for the wastewater treatment plant be transferred which Jaci had recommended be disapproved.

Jaci had serious reservations about the alternative site because it was close to the public areas, he said.

The Japanese firm said it was "not aware of any written approval by the Philippine government to construct a cargo terminal in this location."

"Until such time as we are informed otherwise, we view the current construction proceeding . . . to be a non-conformance with the approved tender design," Iida wrote.

Part of the deal

Piatco spokesperson Moises Tolentino claimed that the construction of the cargo facility was "part and parcel of Naia 3 and is covered by the concession agreement (between Piatco and the government)."

In a press statement yesterday, he claimed that the airlines had requested that the cargo facility be built closer to the new terminal although there is a cargo terminal near Terminal 2 which would have been made accessible by a 2.7-km access road that would link Terminals 2 and 3.

He said Piatco had received the MIAA's cease-and-desist order on Wednesday and was "keeping its options open for whatever steps we may take to address the situation."

In another press statement, Tolentino appealed to the presidential review committee to immediately start renegotiating the provisions of the build-operate-transfer contract.

He claimed that Piatco "has always been open for renegotiation of the terms of the agreement."

An earlier review by Gloria Tan-Climaco, the presidential adviser on special projects, had found some of the terms "onerous."

'Discreet' talks up

DAVAO CITY—The peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front (NDF) will resume but that "it will be discreet."

Government negotiator Silvestre Bello III said he expects the peace talks to resume by end of September or by mid-October.

"(But) if we will have a meeting, nobody will know about it," Bello said.

Strunk suffers setback

ROD Strunk suffered a setback at the Department of Justice yesterday after a three-man DOJ panel junked his motion seeking to force certain parties to be deposed by the panel.

The panel led by Archimedes Manabat instead gave Strunk an ultimatum, through his lawyer Alma Mallonga, to answer the murder charges lodged against him in connection with the death on Nov. 7, 2001 of his spouse, actress Nida Blanca.

Strunk, who is in the United States, was supposed to submit his counter-affidavit at yesterday's second hearing of the preliminary investigation.

The panel, exasperated by Strunk's continued failure to reply to the charges, gave him until Oct. 1 to submit his affidavit. "No other pleadings will be entertained after that," Manabat said.

Manabat said he junked Strunk's motion because the panel had no authority to grant it. The motion sought to summon 10 persons for questioning.

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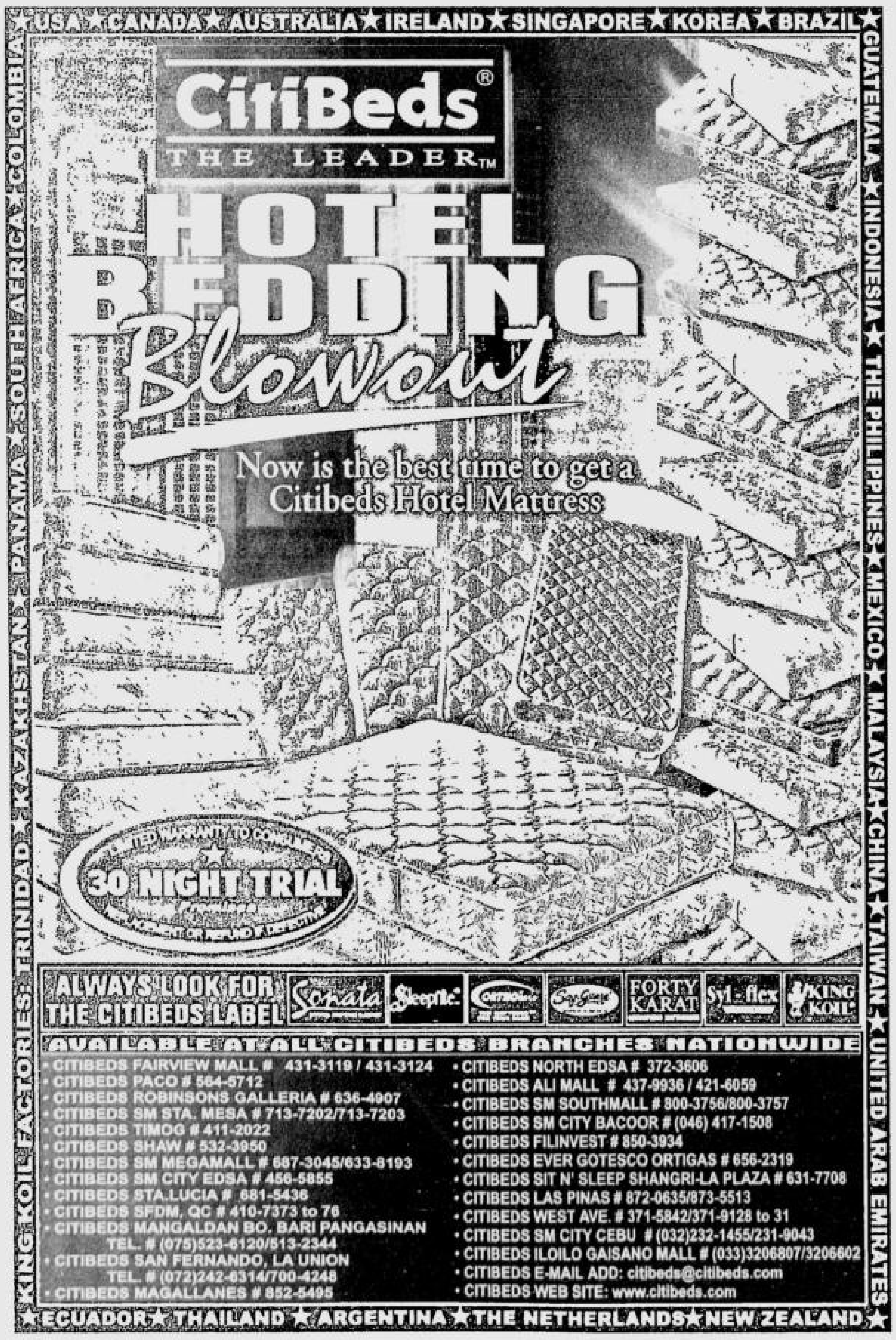
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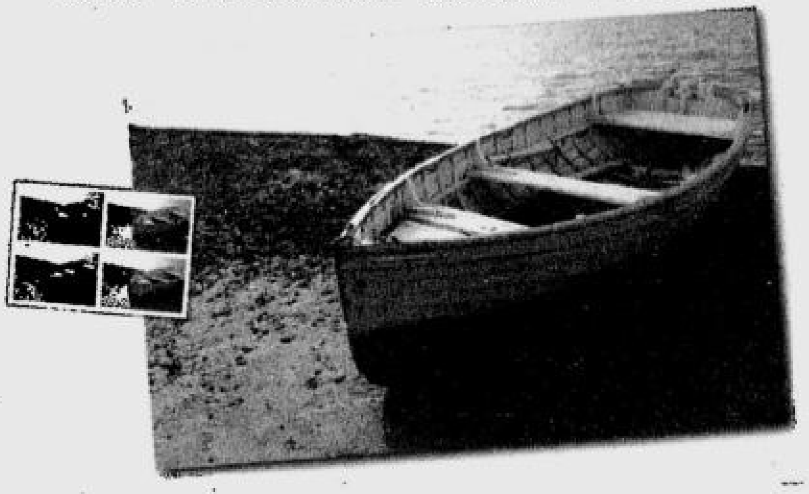

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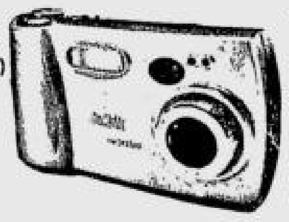

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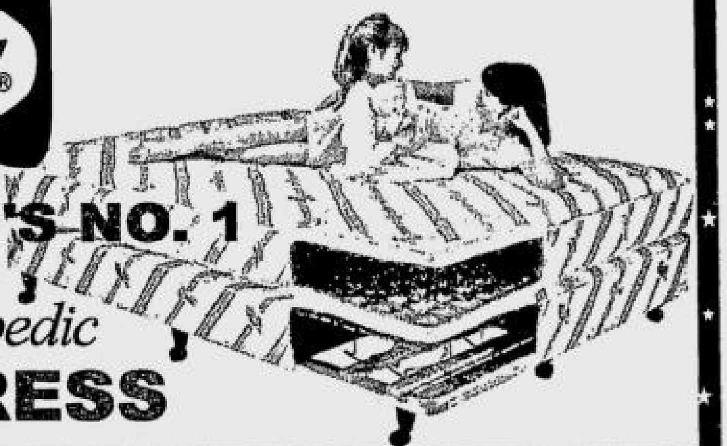

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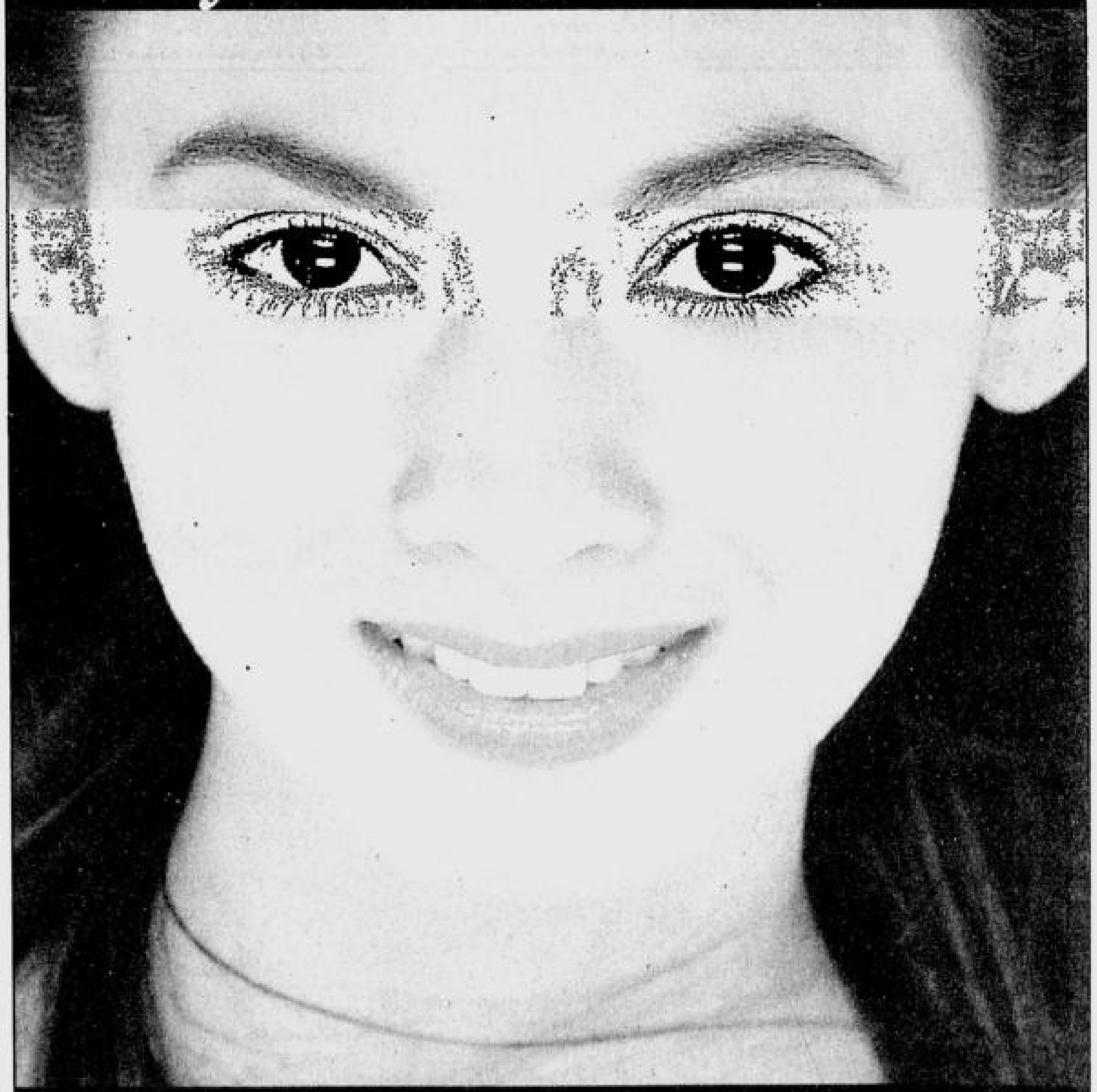

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NBI eyes state witness

ONE of the six accused in the Landbank tax diversion scam involving Lorenzo Shipping wants to turn state witness, according to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

Wycoco said this would be possible if he is among the least guilty.

The NBI has filed syndicated estafa and money-laundering charges against former Lorenzo Shipping vice president Ronilo T. Yu, businessman Teodorico Rivera; Rivera's niece-in-law Resty; a John Doe alias "Joven C. Aquino," and a Jane and a John Doe.

They allegedly diverted Lorenzo's taxes to private bank accounts in the Landbank's Binangonan branch.

BIR eyes cheats, offers amnesty

By Clarissa S. Batino

SIX hundred companies found to have cheated on their value-added taxes will soon be hearing from the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Department of Finance in the form of letters demanding immediate payment of their obligations.

Other companies that have similarly understated their tax payments but have not been caught yet should take advantage of the temporary amnesty that the BIR was offering, said BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno.

Parayno said the 600 companies were found to have understated P9 billion worth of VAT payments for sales and services.

The BIR is conducting an audit of more than 200,000 VAT-registered firms. Parayno said more cheaters would unmasked as the search is expanded.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has approved new regulations on the 10 percent VAT payments which are to be released today. Demand letters will go out to the 600 companies on Monday.

Parayno warned companies and individuals cheating on their taxes that the bureau now has the capability to detect such irregularities from a database that it has been building.

Chance to pay right

"We now have a way of knowing these things. I want to give the others a chance to pay the right taxes before we catch them. Because once we do, it will be more difficult for them. They cannot escape us anymore," said the newly appointed BIR chief who took office on Aug. 30.

Among the provisions of the new rules are that companies found to be understating VAT payments would be levied a three percent tax on all goods sold and six percent tax on services. The erring taxpayer must also reckon with an interest penalty for one year.

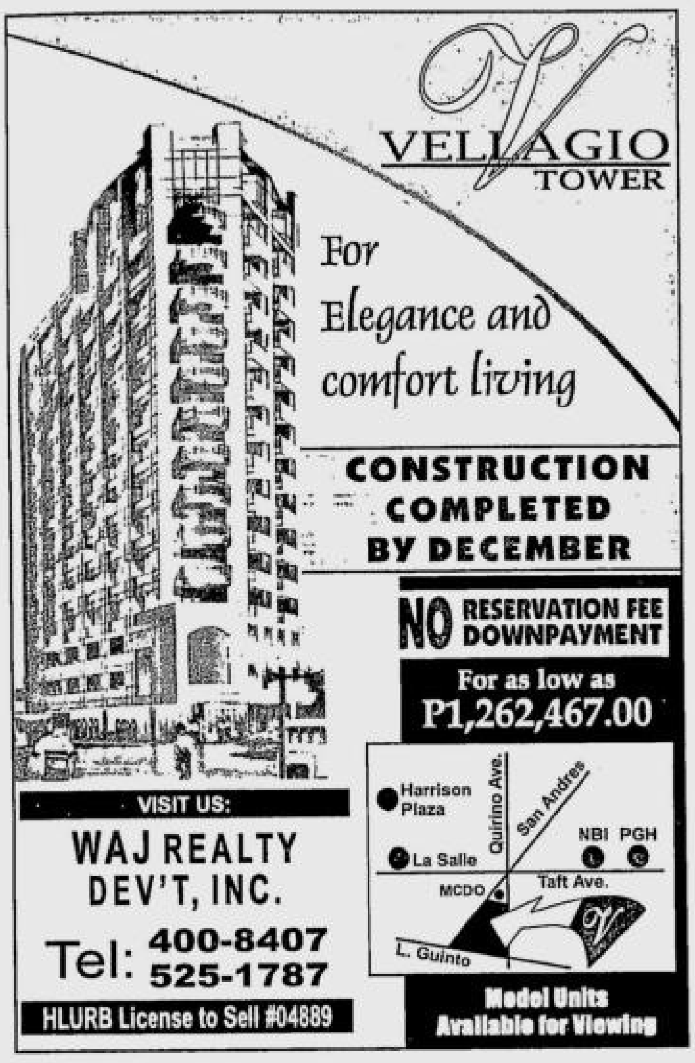
The 600 erring firms—a mix of small, medium and large companies—will be ordered to immediately pay the appropriate VAT, income and excise taxes.

Concerning the P432-million tax diversion scam uncovered in the Binangonan branch of the Land Bank of the Phils., Parayno said that besides seven BIR officers under investigation the BIR's inspection division has discovered two more employees from the "stop-filers" unit to have been involved in the scam.

Stop-filer units

He said the bureau was expanding the investigation to include all stop-filer units, which monitor the payments of various taxpayers' groups, so cases of tax diversion can be easily detected.

He explained that the Landbank fraud case was only discovered a year after the nine large taxpayers had stopped paying their taxes. He said the BIR officers allegedly involved in the tax diversion scam were responsible for the monitoring of stop-filers and should have been alerted to the irregularity long before the Landbank discovered the fraud.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Heavy fighting raging in Jolo

JOLO, Sulu—Heavy fighting continued yesterday between a large Abu Sayyaf band led by Raddulan Sahiron and soldiers of the 1st Infantry Battalion under Col. Eugene Clemens in Patikul town.

The fighting began just before noon on Wednesday when a military patrol came under fire by some 250 bandits.

At least two Abu Sayyaf bandits and one soldier were killed in the initial encounter, according to Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Diaz, Southcom deputy commander.

Diaz said four soldiers were wounded as the military's Oplan Endgame, aimed at "neutralizing" the Abu Sayyaf and freeing its remaining hostages, has been intensified.

Air support

Air support arrived an hour later when at least two MG-520 attack helicopters began bombing the Abu Sayyaf position.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina told reporters in Zamboanga City the helicopters were being used to "direct assaults on the running Abu Sayyaf."

Reports reaching the INQUIRER, however, said the bandits were firing at the helicopters with their M-79 grenade launchers, as they moved toward Panamao town.

As of yesterday, the battle was nearing Punay, a coastal area in Panglima Estino town.

At least seven persons—three Indonesians and four Jehovah's Witnesses—remain in Abu Sayyaf hands.

On Friday last week, eight soldiers were slain when the bandits mounted an attack against a group of soldiers patrolling the hinterlands of Patikul.

The attack triggered the deployment of more soldiers to the island-province of Sulu.

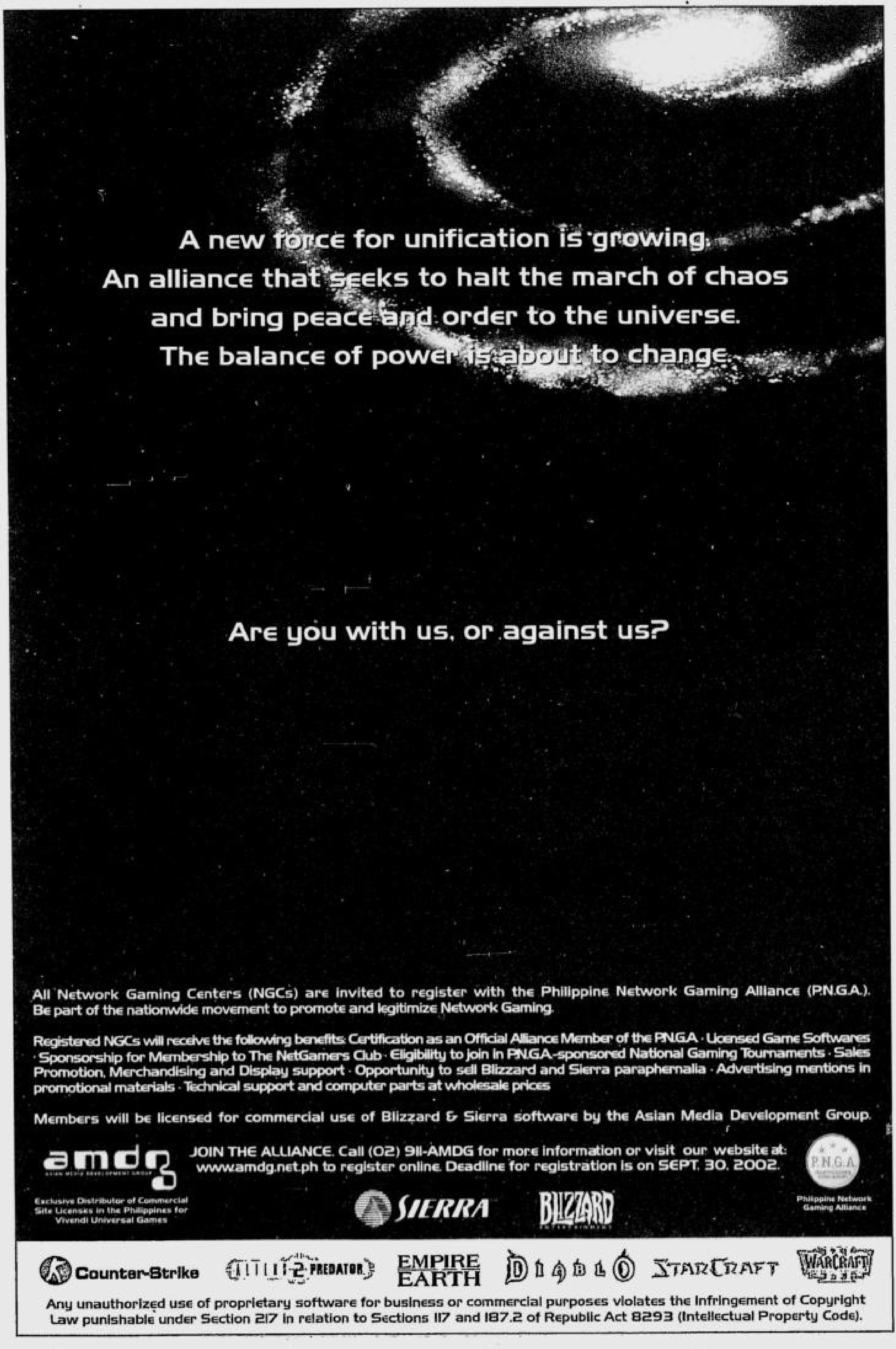
'I will die here'

A local government official, who declined to be identified, said Sahiron, alias Commander Putol, has vowed a "fight to the death."

"I will die here. Tell the military to come and get me," Sahiron was quoted as saying.

Sahiron, one of the top five leaders of the Sulu faction of the Abu Sayyaf, was an MNLF commander at the height of the Mindanao conflict. He lost his right arm in one of the numerous battles he fought against government troops.

Noralyn Mustafa and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau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Pinay's Malaysian lawyer here today

A MALAYSIAN lawyer hired by the Philippine government is due here today for consultations over the alleged rape of a 13-year-old Filipino girl at a detention center in Malaysia, the justice secretary said.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday he would meet with lawyer Gordon Jones, who is to be accompanied by Philippine ambassador to Kuala Lumpur Jose Brillantes.

"We will have a conference and I will hand over to him the affidavit of the 13-year-old victim," Perez said on local radio, adding that there was "enough evidence" to prove the allegation.

It is now "a matter of filing the appropriate charge in Malaysia," he said.

Social workers have said the girl, among 500 Filipinos who were deported to the southern Philippines two weeks ago, needed immediate psychological help after the alleged rape.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad last week pledged swift action in the case after President Macapagal Arroyo complained in a letter to him that the migrant girl had been raped, reportedly by a policeman at a detention centre in Sabah.

The case added fresh pressure to bilateral ties already strained by Malaysia's alleged mistreatment of thousands of Filipino migrants being deported after the introduction of tough immigration laws.

Officials said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes was due to depart for Malaysia later yesterday to meet with his counterpart to defuse bilateral tensions. *AFP*

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Raps filed vs Carmela crew, owner

By Michael Lim Ubac

RELATIVES of the more than 150 passengers who perished in the sinking of the MV Ma. Carmela last April filed a formal complaint with the Department of Justice yesterday against the owner, captain and crewmen of the ferry and two Coast Guard officers.

Forty-two passengers were confirmed dead while at least 111 others, who were declared missing, were believed to have perished when the boat caught fire and sank on April 11 in the waters off Quezon province.

Charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide, serious physical injuries and damage to property were filed before the office of Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño by more than 50 members of the MV Carmela Movement who had come all the way from Masbate, where most of the victims were from.

Rhodora Rey, the movement's president, said the group was also seeking damages from the respondents.

Charged were Vicente Montenegro Jr., general manager of Montenegro Shipping Lines, operator of the ferry; safety and quality assurance officer Melchor Gutierrez, Captain Godofredo Erandio, chief mate Pablito Masangkay, third mate Rodel Azuero, acting chief engineer Blas Sevilla, acting second engineer Ricardo Moreno, electrician Mario Isla and boatswain Jose Maria Reyes.

Also charged were Lorenzo Princesa, Coast Guard commanding officer of Masbate City; Elpidio Gunio, CG station commander in Lucena City, and several John and Jane Does.

The group accused them of disregarding laws governing the operation of a common carrier.

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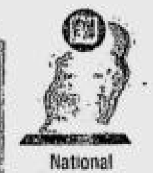

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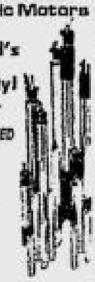
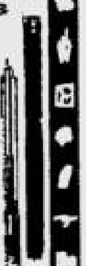

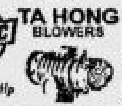

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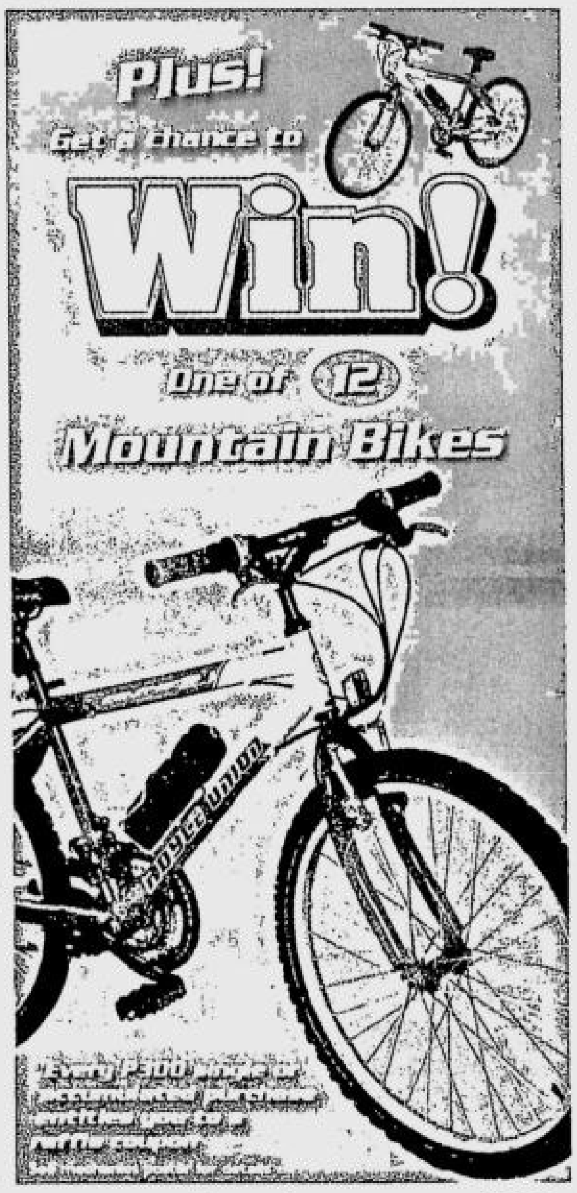

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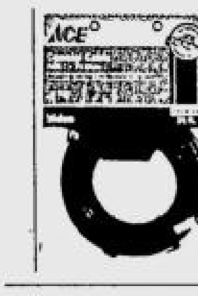

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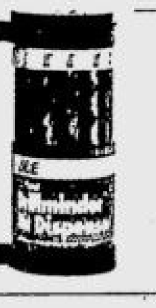

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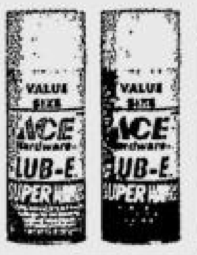

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Gloria returns to scene of raid, this time with search warrant

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo returned yesterday to the site of her near-brush with the law on Wednesday.

This time her return to the property in Antipolo City where some P1.8-billion worth of suspected smuggled rice was found was preceded by the service of a search warrant.

The President looked on grimly as Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo led her to one of several container vans on the property, inside which were hundreds of sacks of well-milled rice.

Ms Macapagal told reporters later that she had no intention of entering the property when she first dropped by Wednesday morning. At the time, authorities had not yet served the search warrant, placing the President at risk of being a trespasser.

She said she had only wanted to commend the National Bureau of Investigation agents who had been staking out the property for a week.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday the President was aware she could not enter the property without a warrant.

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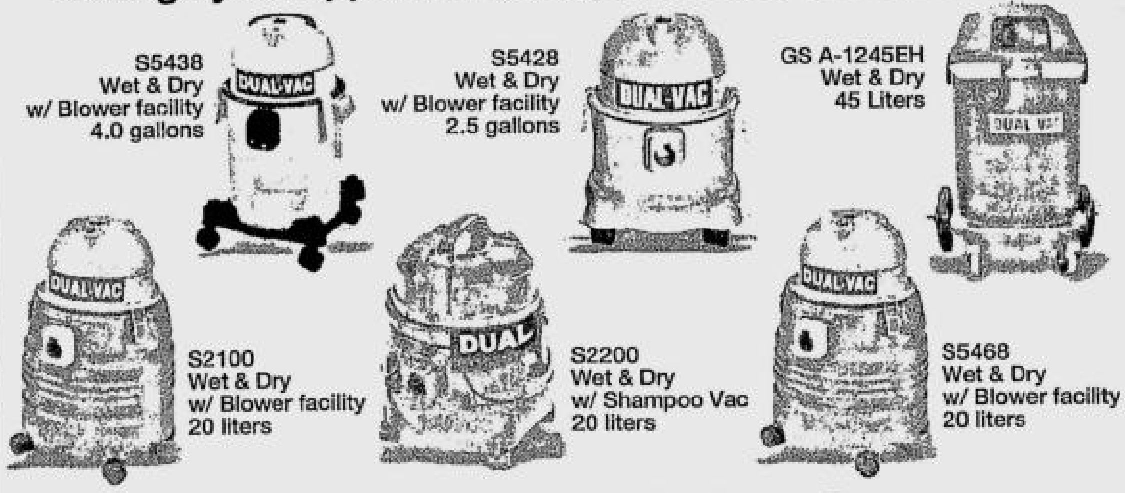

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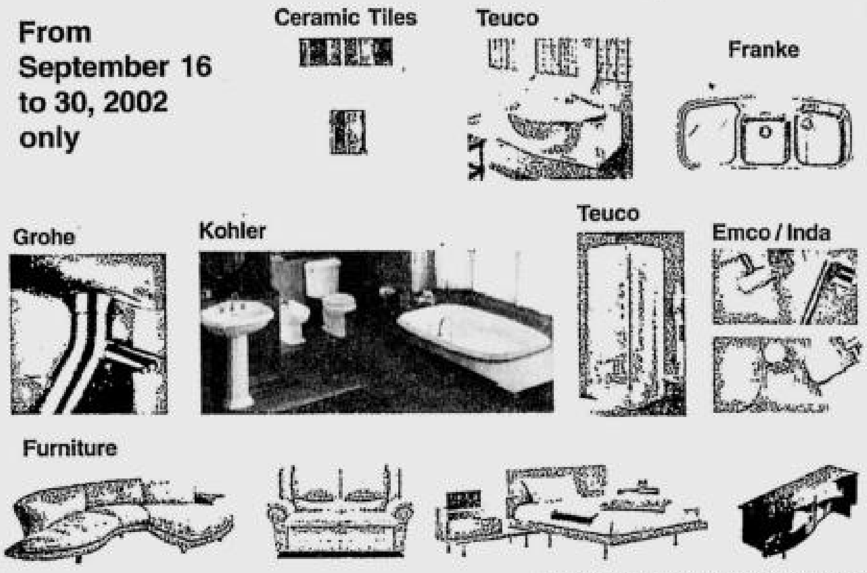

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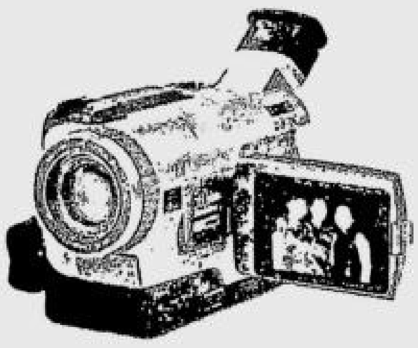

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OPINION

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EDITORIALS

Words

IF WARS were won by words, the Abu Sayyaf would have been wiped out a long time ago. And you could have even thrown the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front into the bargain—that is if you could believe the chief of the Southern Command, Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina.

A week after the Abu Sayyaf abducted six Jehovah's Witnesses in Patikul, Sulu, last Aug. 20 and beheaded two of them, Carolina told reporters that the bandits were "really afraid" of a confrontation with the military. Until then, the six Army battalions which had been dispatched to go after the kidnappers were said to be holding their fire to allow private negotiations for the release of the remaining four hostages to continue. As the one-week deadline for the talks expired on Aug. 27, Carolina rejected the Abu Sayyaf's demand that the government pull out its troops. "They are not in a position to demand anything," Carolina said. "They have nowhere to run."

Carolina must have been dreaming of a different place. Patikul is known to have some very thick forests and treacherous mountains, which has made it a favorite haven of Muslim insurgents, including the MNLF and the Abu Sayyaf. In Patikul, there is certainly a lot of room for rebels and criminals to run and hide.

In fact, on the same day Carolina was boasting that the military had the Abu Sayyaf virtually cornered, another general was saying that the bandits were proving to be difficult to pin down. "Our troops are combing the jungle inch by inch but the kidnappers are constantly on the run," said Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, chief of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade.

Whom to believe? Easy. Today, 15 days later, government forces are not even close to scoring a decisive victory over the Abu Sayyaf. Only last Friday, eight soldiers were killed in an encounter with the Abu Sayyaf, although the military claimed to have killed 16 of the bandits (but there was no actual body count since the bandits were said to have carried away their dead). Yesterday another soldier was killed along with two bandits (and this time there was a body count, the military pointed out).

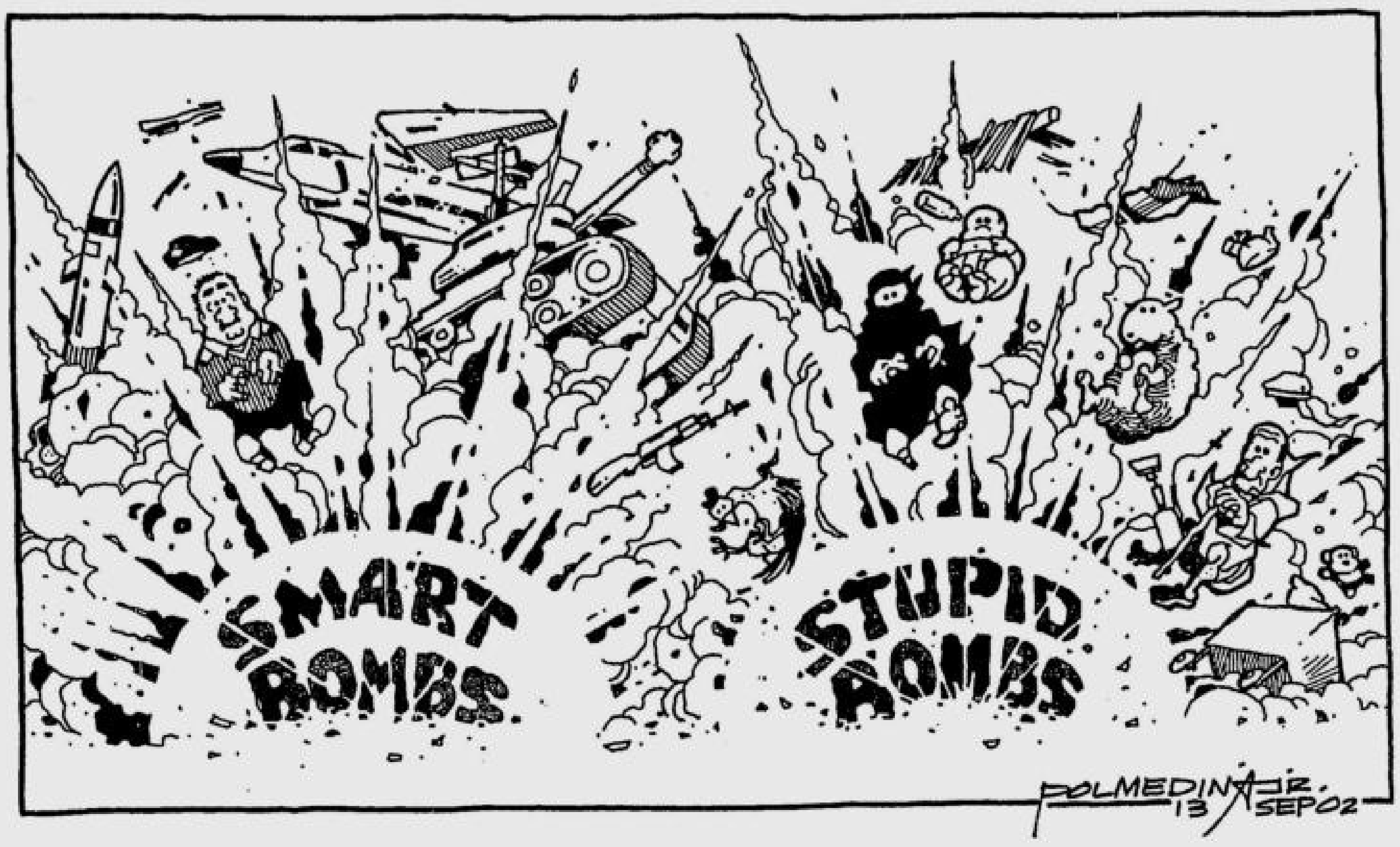
What we have here, in other words, are bandits or rebels who are fighting back, and not the sitting ducks that Carolina described them to be. In fact, the latest military estimate placed their number at 250 men—a much more formidable force than the handful who staged the latest kidnapping in Patikul.

Action

IT WASN'T the public that was deceived by Carolina's braggadocio. It was his commander in chief. President Macapagal-Arroyo was apparently so confident that victory was at hand that she told the nation she was extending the tour of duty of Gen. Roy Cimatu as Armed Forces chief of staff by a few days so he could have his "swan song." Cimatu retired last Tuesday, even as three more battalions landed in Sulu to join the 5,000 troops hunting down the Abu Sayyaf. "Oplan Endgame will really be a very difficult operation," he acknowledged. "It is not just a military combat operation. It is meant to destroy the Abu Sayyaf, including the root cause (of the trouble) in Sulu."

Cimatu should have hammered that lesson into the head of his successor as Southcom chief. Despite his failure to deliver, Carolina continues to talk like he could smell victory. This is the time to end the Abu Sayyaf's reign of terror, he boasted last Saturday. "This is a fight to the death." The next day he was at it again, saying: "We are prepared to inflict more casualties against the Abu Sayyaf. We have already constricted their movement." Yesterday he declared that the military was "making the bandits' lives miserable" and predicted that they would be forced to release their hostages.

No doubt, the man can shoot his mouth off. Now, if only he would let his trigger finger do the talking ...



HB 5944: The cure is worse than the disease

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE HOUSE of Representatives is currently considering House Bill 5944, or the Medical Malpractice Act of 2002, which will punish physicians for malpractices. It was introduced by Rep. Oscar Rodriguez of Pampanga. This bill is merely a revival of the Anti-Malpractice Act of 1996, also authored by Rodriguez, which was rejected by the House. It was refiled because a congressman did not like the service in a hospital where he was confined.

The bill seeks to protect the rights of patients and punish doctors for errors and negligence in the practice of their profession. At first blush, this looks justified because it will protect patients from negligent doctors. On second look, however, this is a clear case of the cure being worse than the disease.

A forum by the Philippine College of Physicians the other week and a paper delivered by Dr. Homobono B. Calleja, a respected cardiologist, before congressmen at a committee hearing at the House shows why.

In the first place, we already have existing laws and regulations that address malpractices by doctors and hospitals. An aggrieved patient can sue them and they can be punished under the Revised Penal Code. There is the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) that metes out appropriate punishments against erring physicians. The Philippine Medical Association (PMA) has an internal mechanism to police its ranks. It has a Commission on Ethics that investigates wrongdoing by any doctor. Moreover, there is the Oath of Hippocrates and the Code of Ethics of the profession that are impressed on the doctor and reinforced regularly at medical conferences. Periodically, the World Medical Association (WMA) issues declarations and policies on ethics pertinent to rights of patients and duties and obligations of doctors to patients, colleagues and society. The rights of patients are enshrined in the Declaration of Lisbon in 1981 and recently updated in 1995 in the WMA Assembly in Bali, Indonesia. In short, there is no need for another law to protect the rights of patients and punish erring physicians. The patient is already amply protected.

The degree of punishment should be commensurate to the degree of guilt, but what HB 5944 will do is impose a uniform fine of P1 million to any doctor who commits any error. What this will do is hang a sword of Damocles over the heads of doctors and make ambulance-chasing a thriving industry. Such a law would be class legislation: it would punish doctors and reward lawyers. Why would there be a malpractice law against doctors but none against lawyers, engineers, architects, accountants and other professionals?

HB 5944 is supposed to be for the welfare of patients. It would only do the opposite. It would raise the professional fees of doctors. To protect themselves from malpractice suits, they will buy malpractice insurance for which they would have to pay premiums. From whom do you think they will get these premiums? And they will practice "defensive medicine." To be absolutely sure of their diagnosis, they would order numerous tests for the patient. These are expensive and would add to quite a big bill for the patient.

Doctors do a lot of free services in medical missions for indigent patients in poor communities. Since the chances of malpractice suits are proportionate to the number of patients a doctor treats, they will stop giving free services in medical missions. They would no longer volunteer in emergencies, disasters and calamities. They will no longer provide medical assistance in poorly equipped hospitals. Who would be the loser here? The patients.

Instead of a law threatening all doctors, "it is far better for society to let the peers of the profession decide the fate of an erring physician than to crucify the profession by unscientific judgment of media and the courts of law," said Doctor Calleja in his paper. He compared it to the injustice committed on Galileo Galilei by the Inquisition in the 17th century. "The Inquisition, composed of men of the Church, convicted and imprisoned Galileo for heresy. Galileo supported the Copernican system of planetary arrangement against the Ptolemic system believed in by the Church. Contemporary astronomy upholds Copernicus and Galileo."

Instead of draconian legislation, Calleja proposed the following alternatives: "1. Make health care absolutely apolitical; 2. Upgrade facilities of government hospitals; 3. Contact PMA component societies and forward to the PMA Commission on Ethics all cases of alleged malpractice; and 4. Continuing medical education and reinforcement of moral values."

Calleja pointed out that there are three learned professions: the clergy, law and medicine. "Of these, medicine has the longest schooling and training. And to this we add the years of experience in ministering to every patient and the many seminars, conventions and scientific meetings. In sum, the body of scientific knowledge and ethical values acquired by a physician in the practice of his profession exceeds that of any other profession...

"No profession is immaculately clean. The clergy, law, medicine and other professions share the same genetically programmed weaknesses and shortcomings of human beings. This is not to say that we condone these human frailties when committed by a few, but society should grant the profession a greater latitude of understanding and sympathy. I do not know of any physician who willfully violates his Hippocratic covenant."

HB 5944 will erode the confidence of society in the profession secured by dedicated physicians over centuries of selfless service, Calleja continued. "While the profession regrets profoundly these (isolated) incidents, the appropriate solution is not legislation but continuing education and training of physicians to hone their skills and expertise in diagnosis and treatment. In addition, the profession aggressively pursues continuous renaissance of moral values toward strict compliance of the ethics of the profession and the Hippocratic Oath."

Beyond piracy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'VE pretty much made my sentiments known on the anti-piracy issue in various articles. That is that the only anti-piracy policy that makes sense is one that protects local products.

Foremost because the government exists not to protect foreign interests but to protect local ones. The mandate of senators and congressmen, as much as secretaries and judges, is to protect the interests of the citizens, no one else's. That goes for the Videogram Regulatory Board too. It is paid for by taxpayers' money. It has no business confiscating copies of movies and musical albums from Columbia and Sony. It has a business confiscating only copies of local movies and musical albums.

The premise of any anti-piracy policy is national interest. We overstep this, and we will have a huge headache on software. The software Malacañang and the VRB use are not original, they are pirated. The word processing programs the anti-piracy groups use to write their manifestoes with are not original, they are pirated. We base our anti-piracy policy on the presumed immorality of copying "intellectual property," and we have to agree to use only the $500 Microsoft Office *per individual* instead of the one we just copy from our friends.

Having said this, however, there is one other way we can address the issue of software piracy, and that is by heeding the example of Peru. That is by adopting shareware rather than patented ones. Instead of using an operating system like Microsoft Windows, which is expensive, we can always use one like Linux, which is free. Instead of using various patented writing or audio-video programs, we can always use the shareware that is available or that we can develop ourselves. The only condition in fact for our free use of other people's shareware is that other people can also freely use whatever shareware we develop. We adopt shareware and we won't need to pirate Microsoft and other patented programs at all.

That is what Peru is doing. The man who made it possible was Edgar Villanueva Nuñez, a congressman who authored a bill committing his government to convert to shareware rather remain dependent on Microsoft. The local Microsoft representative protested this vigorously and wrote a letter citing discrimination and unfair trade practice. He figured—monumentally wrongly—that the congressman was just showing off and would back off with this. As it turned out, Nuñez knew whereof he spoke, and answered his letter point by point. His reply, a fairly long and detailed one, has now become the manifesto of the global shareware community.

To the charge that his bill is discriminatory, Nuñez said it wasn't true at all, it in fact did the opposite, which was promote true equality among market players. The bill did not prohibit Microsoft and other companies from selling their software to the Peruvian government. What it did do was compel the government to weigh its purchases on the basis of criteria which are vital to any state, chief of them assurances about the citizens' free access to information, permanence of public data and security of the state and the citizens.

Patented software fails on all three grounds. It does not assure the citizens free access to information because it keeps the encoding of data a secret known only to a single provider. It does not assure permanence of public data because the maintenance of the software depends solely on the goodwill of the provider, who will not do business on less than monopolistic conditions. And it does not guarantee the security of the state and the citizens because it puts the information needs of a country at the mercy of outside providers, who often put "spy codes" in their programs.

Microsoft may always compete in Peru, but on a level playing field, not on its own terms.

To the charge that his bill constituted unfair trade practice, Nuñez replied that it in fact promoted true competition. What did in fact constitute unfair trade practice and discouraged competition were the monopolistic conditions Microsoft and other companies demanded. Nuñez himself says it best:

"It is necessary to stress that there is no position more anti-competitive than that of the big software producers, which frequently abuse their dominant position, since in innumerable cases they propose as a solution to problems raised by users: 'Update your software to the new version' (at the user's expense naturally); furthermore, it is common to find arbitrary cessation of technical help for products, which in the provider's judgment alone, are 'old'; and so, to receive any kind of technical assistance, the user finds himself forced to migrate to new versions (with non-trivial costs, especially as changes in hardware are often involved). And as the whole infrastructure is based on proprietary data formats, the user stays 'trapped' in the need to continue using products from the same supplier, or to make the huge effort to change to another environment (probably also proprietary)."

None of these suggests the conversion to shareware will be easy, as Nuñez readily acknowledges. But it can be done, using a combination of will, creativity and capacity and openness to learn.

Can we do the same thing in this country? Of course, if we have a legislator who also has the boldness of vision and strength of character to propose it. And a government that has the foresight and will to fight for it. What is clear is that the digital revolution has opened up whole new worlds of possibilities, and we would be fools not to explore them. Certainly, we would be fools to look at the digital revolution simply as a threat, to be met by seizing the contraband the ragged Muslims are hawking in Virra Mall and Quiapo.

Beyond piracy, there is creativity.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Iraq wants business, not war

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Iraq wants business, not war, with the United States, its foreign minister told reporters, but the two sides' positions appeared to be hardening as the world waited to hear US President George Bush outline his case against Baghdad.

Officials from France, Spain, Denmark and the Netherlands denounced Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in exceptionally blunt terms Monday. In Washington, White House aides said that while few allies are fully behind Bush, the debate has shifted from a question of whether the United States should confront Iraqi President Saddam Hussein over allegations he is amassing weapons of mass destruction and harboring terrorists to a matter of how it should be done.

Iraq denies the allegations. Its neighbors and Russia and China remain firmly opposed to any military action. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said Monday that the Security Council must be allowed to have its say on the issue—as permanent members, both Russia and China have veto power on the council.

Senior US administration officials said Bush, in an address Thursday to the UN General Assembly, planned to urge the United Nations to demand that Saddam open his weapons sites to unfettered inspections or face punitive action.

Bush is not expected to set a deadline or spell out the consequences. French President Jacques Chirac has suggested the United Nations give Iraq three weeks to allow the return of UN weapons inspectors and pass a second resolution to use military force if Iraq does not comply—another sign US allies are coming to terms with the possibility of war.

"Inshallah, we shall fight," Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri told reporters Monday.

Then he quickly corrected himself and said: "We do not want to fight anybody, we do not hope that a war is waged against our country. We'd like to live in stability. We'd like to live in peace."

NEWS ANALYSIS

Selcan Hacaoglu

Sabri has helped lead Iraq's diplomatic campaign to stave off war. Appointed foreign minister in April 2001, the former journalist and deputy information minister was widely viewed as having the necessary flexibility and experience to represent Iraq abroad during a crisis.

Monday, Sabri said Iraq was hoping to revive good trade ties with the United States before Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. The United States led the 1991 Gulf War that forced Iraq out of Kuwait.

"We've been doing this with the United States up to 1990, we've been importing one-fourth of all American exports of rice...Americans were importing more than 60 percent of our oil exports," Sabri said. "We can do business again."

Sabri said Iraq has denounced terrorism and expressed condolences for the American people who lost loved ones in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack last year.

The United States accuses Saddam of sponsoring terrorism as well as possessing weapons of mass destruction.

Reporters in Baghdad Monday were escorted on a tour of a site Iraqi defectors say was a terrorist training camp. The reporters were accompanied by Scott Ritter, a former UN weapons inspector who has become a critic of Washington's Iraq policies, who supported Iraqi government claims that the camp 40 kilometers east of Baghdad had been used to train security forces to respond to hijackings.

On another tour Monday, reporters were shown new buildings at a site Iraq said corresponded with construction visible in satellite photos that had concerned UN nuclear weapons inspectors. Reporters were told the new buildings were devoted to peaceful research at what was once a nuclear facility.

In a report released Monday, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, a leading independent center for strategic analysis, said Iraq could assemble a nuclear weapon within months if it could steal or buy radioactive material, and it is working to develop equipment to make bomb components.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Sabri said such assessments "are pretexts for...aggression against our country, they know very well that these are false pretexts, false accusations."

"We challenge them to present one piece of evidence, a single piece of evidence for these accusations," Sabri said.

Iraq agreed to weapons inspections after the Gulf War, but the inspectors left in December 1998 complaining of lack of Iraqi cooperation ahead of US and British airstrikes, and Baghdad has not allowed them back.

Sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait cannot be lifted until the inspectors certify Baghdad has surrendered nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and the missiles to deliver them.

Iraq has denied it still has weapons of mass destruction and has offered to continue dialogue with the United Nations about the return of inspectors. Iraq's insistence the issue be tied to ending sanctions is seen by the United Nations as an unacceptable condition.

UN Secretary General Annan has demanded that inspectors be allowed to return unconditionally as a first step to further talks.

"We've never put conditions," Sabri said. "We call for the implementation of Security Council resolutions."

The United States not Baghdad, Sabri charged, was blocking the implementation of UN resolutions. *AP*

IEs at the church door

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHEN I first heard that some priests had threatened that they would refuse Communion to women using IUDs, I was skeptical.

How could the priests tell? Frankly, I couldn't picture priests stopping women at the church door and conducting impromptu internal exams to check for the telltale string. "Must be an empty threat," I said, just another fire-and-brimstone tactic that religious authorities had long been using to get the faithful to toe the line. Like claiming they would refuse Communion to men and women in illicit relationships. (What, they'll have altar boys asking for marriage contracts?)

But then Rep. Neric Acosta of Bukidnon told me the story of what happened in one parish in his district and suddenly the "empty threat" didn't seem so empty or benign anymore. Here's the story:

* * *

ONE day, an American priest came to a town in rural Bukidnon and started preaching on the evils of contraception, particularly on the use of the intrauterine device or IUD which he claimed was "abortifacient" in effect.

With the help of the parish priest, the visiting preacher rounded up volunteer barangay health workers who had, as part of their duties, assisted in convincing women in the community to become family planning acceptors. The American priest was particularly interested in finding out who among the women had agreed to use an IUD. They came up with a list of more than 30 women, some of whom were members of church groups and active in parish affairs.

The parish priest, the visiting preacher and other parish workers then went to work on the women using IUDs. The women were told that if they continued to use the device, they would be refused Communion and would be barred from participating in parish activities. Acosta heard about the threats when some of the women and barangay officials came to him asking what they could do. "I said I could try talking to the parish priest, but that they should try settling it at their level first," said the congressman, shaking his head at the memory of the meeting, where the women were weeping, torn between their belief that they had made the right choices for their families and themselves, and their desire to remain in good standing with the community, particularly with their co-parishioners.

Acosta says the American priest was finally prevailed upon to leave the parish, though he doesn't know if the visiting preacher then went on to sow havoc in other parishes. Of the 30 or so women identified as IUD users, about six were convinced to have the devices removed.

* * *

WHAT'S the moral of the story? What does this story tell us about the state of reproductive rights and health in this country?

One is that the threat of sin and damnation, while powerful, has limited effect. In Colombia, for instance, women would flock to health clinics to have their IUDs removed just before Holy Week, then return in droves starting Easter Monday to have the devices replaced. Catholics do know how to exercise their conscience, and seek to balance their religious reservations with the imperatives in their lives. Priests, bishops, religious and natalist absolutists don't seem to appreciate the matter of motivation, the reasons men and women choose to practice family planning. And if they're doing it out of a desire to provide the best quality of life for themselves and their children, they might have a hard time accepting a judgment that what they're doing is a sin.

On the other hand, the story of the women in Bukidnon tells us just how fragile is a woman's continued enjoyment of the right to decide for herself if, when, with whom and how often she is to have sex and get pregnant. I'm amazed at how casually the women IUD users' right to privacy and confidentiality was violated. Though unpaid volunteers, the health workers were nonetheless covered by medical ethics, including the need to keep all health information private, so they had no business giving the priests the information on family planning acceptors. It's amazing how priests who supposedly zealously observe the seal of confession would think nothing of violating the privacy of parishioners on so sensitive a matter.

I wonder, would the American priest have dared employ such a tactic in a Metro Manila parish, especially in a prosperous parish like Forbes or Green Meadows, or UP Diliman? What would he have done? Summoned obstetricians and asked for their records of women IUD acceptors?

* * *

THERE is today a "creeping conservatism" in the ranks of government and the Church on the matter of reproductive health and rights. The Department of Health, the agency charged with delivering information, services and supplies on family planning, is hamstrung by shortages in both funding and political will.

Local governments, the cities of Manila and Puerto Princesa, for instance, have disallowed government health personnel from providing family planning services except for natural family planning. And in the wake of the filing of HB 4110, also known as the "Reproductive Health Care Act," the Church hierarchy has threatened legislators with "punishment" in the polls.

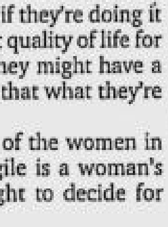
Women who are educated, financially independent and "liberated"—women like us—tend to take our reproductive rights for granted. But what we forget is that once the reproductive rights of some women, usually poorer women, are violated and no one raises a peep in protest, then ALL of us stand to lose our rights and we might as well line up for impromptu IEs at the church door.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

The teaching of history in schools

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

ENCARNACION Alzona (1895-2001) is not well-known today except to Filipino historians or that select group of individuals in the National Academy of Science. She obtained her BS Education, major in history, from the University of the Philippines in 1917, her MA also from UP in 1918. She went to the United States and earned a second MA in history from Radcliffe College in 1920 and finally a Ph.D. in history from Columbia in 1922. When I was first introduced to her by then National Library director Serafin Quiason, I was led to believe her claim to fame rested solely on her being the first Filipina with a Ph.D. in history. Even her being a National Scientist (1985) didn't impress me because all I knew of her work at the time were her English translations of Jose Rizal's letters and a couple of slim biographies of Galicano Apacible, Julio Nakpil and Paz Mendoza Guazon. All the hype about her awards and achievements didn't seem to translate into the lone, frail figure sitting in her garden in a once-beautiful Tudor-inspired home on Taft Avenue that was then going to seed because of the LRT. I was then contemplating a career in history and seeing her in this state made me think twice about my future.

My first and last meeting with Alzona reminds me of the time that Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero and E. Arsenio Manuel were given Gawad CCP awards (that's a notch below National Artist, I think) at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' main theater. It was very inspiring to have these two men on stage receiving the recognition and applause due them for a body of work built over a lifetime. But then, on my way home, I saw Guerrero and Manuel, on Roxas Boulevard, struggling in their advanced age to carry their trophies and the framed citations just awarded them. They were vainly trying to hail a taxi. They were abandoned by the award-giving body. To this day, my conscience nags me about not canceling my date at Malate that evening to take them back to Diliman. That was the least I could have done for them. The sight of Guerrero and Manuel ignored by cab drivers is burned into my memory and made me realize the chilling thought that this was the way this country treats most of its artists, writers and scholars.

While public recognition is fickle and fleeting, a body of work remains forever. In the case of Alzona, her books may be out-of-print but her papers, now available to researchers at the Ateneo Library of Women's Writings (ALIWW), will keep her memory alive. For example, in 1917, she published a short article comparing history instruction in French and Philippine public schools. She noted the lack of emphasis on history in Philippine schools and advocated the teaching of Philippine history at a time when we were still an American colony. There was no Philippine history in the elementary and high schools of her time and one wonders what she would think of the diluted Philippine history we serve in schools today called Araling Panlipunan, HEKASI, or Sibika at Kultura. She wrote: "It is now time that we develop a course in Philippine history in our public schools where the majority of our youth is being trained to become useful members of society. We must begin in the primary course with the teaching of biographies which will serve as a background, so to speak, for the more fundamental study of history in the advanced grades. Modesty aside, our past history can boast also of many men and women who led useful lives and rendered service to the country. The lives of such men and women contain many good lessons for the young, and should be written so that they can be read by our children." At the time, Filipino students knew more about George Washington than Rizal. She also compared the lecture method used in France against the more textbook-oriented classrooms in the Philippines:

"Our method of teaching history differs widely from that of the French. There is a prescribed textbook for each course in which daily assignments are made. In the classroom, questions based on the assigned lesson are distributed to all the members of the class, and difficult or important passages receive additional explanation by the teacher. A commendable feature of our method is the outside reading. Interesting or weighty topics are accompanied by the materials from reference books which are reported in class by the pupils. However, there is no uniformity in classroom method, for much is left to the discretion of the individual teachers. But at least we can be certain that the lecture method is not used by any teacher.

She also noted that unlike the French who used history to inspire their citizens to greatness, in the Philippines, "the teaching of history has a cultural aim; acquaintance with history being admitted as a part of a liberal education. A study of general history can hardly claim to be inspiring, nor scientific, for the treatment of important world movements and events is too superficial and general. What high school students finally carry away with them after following the prescribed course in history is some notion of isolated world events and perhaps a few important dates..."

That Alzona's essay remains surprisingly relevant 85 years since its first publication should frighten us into a rethinking of what goes round as history teaching today.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Shoe story

HIGH BLOOD

Gloria Garchitorena-Goloy

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

JUST when I thought I had had enough of dreary, discouraging, disturbing reports about what's happening in our country—and also about what's not happening in terms of what high and low government officialdom should be doing for the good of the Filipino citizenry—here comes an item that triggered an unexpected, if welcome, reaction from me.

I laughed. And it was not just a sudden burst of explosive mirth that unloads whatever tension had been abuilding because of citizen frustration. It was an uncontrollable, continuing series of difficult-to-suppress titter that rose and ebbed with each recall of the mirthful situation. Believe me, that spate of laughter I had not experienced in a long time served like a welcome release of emotional ballast that had been abuilding through all these months of very frustrating media reports.

And what did I laugh about?

Shoes! To be more precise, Senate President Franklin Drilon's shoes. The shoes that the enraged fourth highest Filipino official of the land banged on the screeners inspection counter at the San Francisco International Airport. The Ferragamo black pair, size 12 1/2.

Okay, okay, the incident should have aroused an echo of proper indignation from me, from every Filipino who should have felt that the highest representative of Philippine officialdom at that particular time had not been accorded the customary protocol courtesies.

It seems that our Senate president had been randomly picked in the line of outgoing passengers for routine inspection that called for the removal of his shoes. The procedure was part of airport precautionary measures to track down potential terrorists. That our Filipino dignitary had not been able to clear up matters with the San Francisco Embassy beforehand did not help to spare him from routinary inspection. And the *"dedma"* attitude of the Filipino-American screener whose *"mayabang ito"* retort gave away a hint of where his nationalistic bent lies, exacerbated what was seen as uncalled for protocol lapses.

Indeed, given the bare facts of the incident, I should have bewailed, like today's current ralliers, what is perceived as another instance of international (undeserved?) bashing our country has been getting lately. I should have been angry. As a true nationalistic Filipino should.

But I laughed. As a true native Filipino would, given the cultural, not political, ramifications of the incident.

I don't know about you, but some Filipinos take liberties with their footwear when dressing up preparatory to going to many a social/official gathering. Not out of habitual nonchalance about good grooming but because of unforeseen situational accidents.

If they happen to pick a pair of socks, one of which may have sprung a hole somewhere, oftentimes near the big toe where an overgrown recalcitrant-to-trimming nail habitually scrapes on the cotton material in that spot, they tend to disregard the accidental discovery and proceed to put on the damaged item just the same. A hands-on remedial measure shall we say. It is not going to be obvious anyway, the hole that is, so goes the happy reasoning and no one would be wiser about the sartorial license.

The menfolk can get away with this subterfuge most of the time because their shoes are whole enclosed objects that can conceal more than just sock holes. You know, extra large big toes, warts, not-well-scrubbed heels, those things.

As a teenager I remember I had to wear the regulation long white stockings as part of our uniform in one of the girls' schools in Intramuros, pre-war time. It took some effort to make sure the seam at the back of the legs ran in a straight line. But sometimes I had problems with a suddenly discovered hole in the toe area. How did I cope with this inadvertence? Simple. By pulling the toe-end a little and then folding the protusion under the toes and presto, the embarrassing hole was tucked away from view. Talk of teenage ingenuity borne of necessity. This went on for several days until my mother discovered the offending toe hole and forthwith darned it expertly, thus effectively putting an end to my sartorial sleight-of-hand creativity. Of course, eventually I got some new pairs of socks.

I understand from my youngest daughter Elise who has five sons that one or another occasionally does this foot trick when caught unprepared to replace the offending pair of socks in the rush to catch the school bus. It was a good thing sandals eventually became fashionable. Her problem with having to buy five pairs of socks for growing boys—with growing extra large feet—mercifully came to an end.

Of course a complete foot-dressing is still de rigueur—when going to office, when attending social functions, when marching up the stage for graduation exercises. Or when traveling.

Which brings us back to the San Francisco airport affair.

Or but, it's not likely that our government officials carry shoe secrets when they travel, whatever these may be. Especially not after our Senate president's embarrassing (?) experience. They could learn from this, let me call it, fortunate, in aid of transit legislation episode.

Henceforth, they would do well to wear the high-class socks dazzling with filigree workmanship, complementing these with name-brand shoes, like yes, Ferragamo, in sizes ranging from a lilliputian 8 or a giant 12.

Who knows, when they wait for their turn at the inspection counter they could even volunteer, without being asked, to unwrap their covered feet—see, no explosives, here—if only to show they (the person, not the shoes) are not disguised renegades from some terrorist groups. Like the dreaded, internationally condemned fugitive band now being linked with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida: the Abu Sayyaf.

If only for this we can thank our Senate president for teaching us a roundabout lesson in international cooperation with the fight against terrorism.

With his shoes.

Gloria Garchitorena-Goloy, 74, is a retired journalist and book author.

THEY SAID

Beyond money

"I don't work for money, prestige and all that. I may sound like a monumental hypocrite, but I guess I just want to build something, create something that is worthwhile. That's what it boils down to."

—Dr. Cornelio Solis, on his decision to work in a remote town

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DPWH exec's suspension did not violate his rights

I WELCOME Belinda Olivares-Cunanan's comments on our statement about the right of the State to preserve itself and its institutions as against the rights of the individual. There has always been a raging debate about these rights which gave rise to many theories to settle the issue, the most fundamental of all resulted in the time-honored principle of "the greatest good for the greatest number."

We share her fears. The state has a right to preserve itself, but it can dangerously veer toward totalitarianism when it ignores the rights of the individual. On the other hand, anarchy results in a society where individual rights are obsessively pursued to the detriment of the common good. This does not mean, of course, that we are advocating the subordination of the right of the individual to that of the state, or vice versa.

Our purpose is to strike a happy balance between these clashing rights. Cunanan will agree that a government with the will to perform the difficult balancing act is the most likely to endure and succeed economically, politically and culturally.

There is no attempt on our part to violate individual rights. A suspicious-looking individual in the wee hours of the morning may be frisked for deadly weapons. He can object but the policeman has the right to protect himself. It is when he is charged in court with illegal possession of a deadly weapon, obtained as a result of that search, that he could ask that the evidence be rendered inadmissible because it was obtained in violation of his rights against unreasonable search and seizure. The court may sustain his argument, but the policeman who acted to protect himself will not be held liable for the damage. *Damnum absque injuria.*

In the Mabini Pablo case, like the policeman in the example given, we are just exercising the right of the state to gather and preserve evidence and witnesses to ensure an objective and impartial investigation and, if warranted, the successful prosecution of the case. This does not mean, however, that his right to be heard or even to be presumed innocent has been forfeited. If there are no formal charges filed against him, which brought about the preventive suspension, there will be no opportunity for him to present his side and clear the doubt hanging over his head. He may be innocent of the charges, but again that does not mean that the state, in ordering his preventive suspension, has violated his individual rights. Ironically, in this case, the public works undersecretary, if he is the policeman in the example, is also the suspect.

The current debate may even help define and explain the balancing of interests which the government exercises in dealing not only with individuals involved in graft and corruption but in other affairs of state as well.

We hope that we have addressed Cunanan's concerns. Rest assured that the swift and decisive act of Pablo's preventive suspension did not violate his rights. We live not in a totalitarian state, but in a country where democratic institutions are in place to check excesses of public officers. Notwithstanding occasional lapses in the system, the country has an independent judiciary. We would like to see that independence preserved and enhanced. That is why great care must be exercised in the choice of judges and prosecutors, but that is another story.

—AMADO D. VALDEZ,
government corporate counsel,
Office of the Government Corporate Counsel,
3/F MWSS Administration Bldg.,
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City

What are your thoughts on the CPP/NPA?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

I THINK it is time the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army realized the armed struggle will lead it nowhere. The Filipino people have clearly accepted this.

It now has a window in the government, through Congress. All it has to do is convince more people to vote for its candidates, without use of force or intimidation.

To avail of this window and still hold the people's march toward progress hostage to its violence is just plain senseless.**—peterdin**

* * *

The CPP/NPA is actually a profit-oriented organization that is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and does not pay taxes.

I can still remember how the CPP raised funds in my hometown in Albay. My cousins were among its members and they usually went around our place to collect money from every family. 'My father, a farmer, was very willing then to give to the NPA because of its display of "quick justice" to thieves. However, the NPA lost its grip on the people when the collection became more frequent and the percentage was raised up to 25 percent of every family's income and pieces of property. Everyone in our place later called the rebels "*bengkong*," a shortcut for *bente singko* (25). The people revolted, some of my cousins volunteered to join the Cafgu and the NPA was flushed out of the community. My *bengkong* cousins were never accepted back in our community and we learned that they were executed.**—man69**

* * *

Like any other party, the CPP is not an illegal party per se. What made it illegal is its means of putting its ideology in action. If the CPP is allowed to fight in the session halls of Congress, why not? At least, it will be fought by real ideologues and not by nameless and not too well-trained rebels in the field.**—d'blair**

* * *

I support all efforts to dismantle the CPP/NPA. However, the CPP/NPA is a symptom of a bigger problem. The real problem is poverty and our civilian and business leaders' proffered solution is a band-aid remedy using the Armed Forces of the Philippines. I am confident that with the help of the US military, the CPP/NPA will be destroyed but we all know that if poverty is not significantly reduced, another populist rebel organization will take its place and the Philippines will be back to square one. The current Philippine strategy is like the mouse on the exercise wheel, spending a lot of energy and going nowhere.**—sulung**

* * *

It's another form of deception to the masses. While they are made to believe in a cause that will "rescue them" from the bondage of poverty, the CPP/NPA's supposed leaders are wallowing in comfort in foreign lands.

Their warriors in the local front do all the extortion to raise funds to sustain the lifestyle of their leaders abroad. It's mendacity of the highest degree!**—froilan**

* * *

The CPP-NPA has been tagged as a foreign terrorist organization. It's about time. Its leaders asked their peons to fight for the organization's lost cause while having a good life in foreign countries. The Philippines should take this opportunity to ask the Dutch government to send back these people to face the charges against them.**—Wakay**

* * *

A dead cause haunting the people in its last, futile effort to sow social discontent by trashing every development program of the government be it economic or geared toward better peace and order.**—Liza**

* * *

Communist leader Jose Ma. Sison has the nerve to talk tough while in hiding, while his pawns are in the jungles of Luzon fighting for their cause and dying, if not from hunger, from armed encounters with the pursuing military. Sison should come back to the country, join his forces and face the military like his comrades are doing.**--JUSTICE4 RP 2001**

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Loren presses for int'l criminal court

SENATE majority leader Loren Legarda-Leviste yesterday pressed for the ratification of a United Nations treaty creating an International Criminal Court (ICC) that would try individuals for war crimes and other crimes against humanity and violations of human rights.

Legarda made the call in a Senate resolution in view of the delay by Malacañang in forwarding a draft of the treaty to the Senate.

Although the Philippines has already signed the treaty, this has yet to be ratified by the Senate to make it binding.

"The ICC is envisioned to become a permanent independent judicial body created by the international community of states to prosecute the gravest crimes under international law," Legarda said.

She said the ICC shall have the power to try individuals, thereby serving as a forum for the redress of crimes committed whether as part or in relation to governments in power or of groups aiming to change the government or the status quo.

LPG price hike seen

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez said yesterday the retail price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) may increase due to rising global LPG prices.

"We are carefully watching the contract prices of LPG in the world market. There is a concern that there would be partial adjustments," he told reporters.

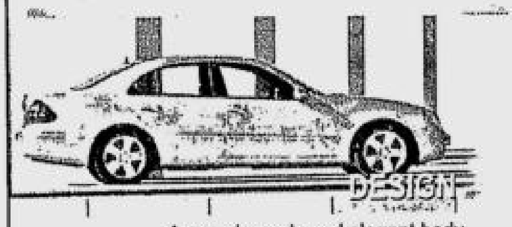
Perez said global LPG prices increased by more than $10 per metric ton in the first few days of September.

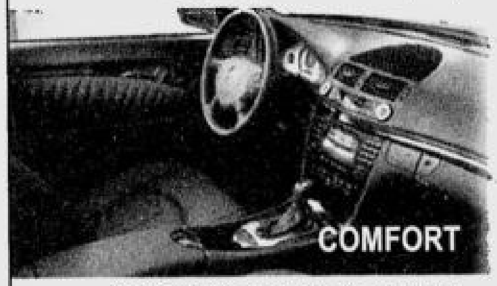
Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp, the country's second-largest oil refiner, earlier said it was considering raising the retail price of its LPG products.

Pilipinas Shell, a unit of the Royal Dutch/Shell group, and the country's two other leading refiners, Petron Corp and Caltex Philippines Inc, raised pump prices of their petroleum products by around two percent or 39 centavos per liter in the first week of September, citing high world crude prices and a weak peso.

Perez said the energy department was monitoring developments in the Middle East amid mounting international concern over a possible US-led strike against Iraq.

The energy chief said, however, the Philippines, which sources its crude requirements from overseas, had an adequate supply of oil— a 55-day inventory. *Reuters*





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Putin wants to attack Georgia, too

MOSCOW—Russian President Vladimir Putin has issued his toughest warning yet to Georgia to tackle Chechen rebels on its territory, but Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze dismissed his comments as biased.

Russian commentators and at least one top parliamentarian said Putin would secure widespread backing, particularly in the United Nations, for his pledge to consider strikes inside ex-Soviet Georgia if Shevardnadze failed to take action against rebels in the rugged Pankisi gorge.

In the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, Shevardnadze said he would summon Georgia's Security Council on Thursday and meet parliamentarians to draw up a response to the Kremlin warning.

He suggested new talks.

Putin used the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on US targets to make what many analysts called an ultimatum.

Russia, he said on Wednesday evening, would consider launching strikes inside Georgia unless the ex-Soviet state took action to end "bandit" incursions across their common border.

"I am asking the military staff to provide proposals on whether it is possible and expedient to launch strikes on bases of terrorists reliably identified in intelligence operations," Putin said in a televised statement.

Russia, he said, had evidence that rebels in Pankisi had helped plan the attacks in the United States last year and were directly involved in 1999 blasts that killed 300 people in Moscow and other Russian cities. The Kremlin blames Chechen rebels for those explosions.

But Putin said there would be no need to use the UN Charter's "self-defense" clause if Georgia controlled matters.

"We cannot allow any more incursions into Russia with large loss of life," Dmitry Rogozin, head of the Duma lower house of parliament's Foreign Affairs Commission, told NTV television. "The president clearly knows what he is talking about. Parliament and public opinion will back him."

Shevardnadze expressed surprise at Putin's tone, saying the Russian leader's address was "biased with a one-sided view." He said Georgia had not created the problem of rebels, who have been battling Russia's second military drive in Chechnya since 1999.

"I was surprised there was not a single word about Chechnya in this statement. But everything began in Chechnya. I think Russia should first restore order in Chechnya," he told reporters.

But Shevardnadze agreed with Putin that talks should be continued, citing a summit of ex-Soviet states next month.

Russia says it controls Chechnya and portrays life as returning to normal. But rebels have offered new resistance, downing two helicopters last month, killing 119 in one instance. *REUTERS*

'BURN BIN LADEN' REUTERS

As thousands of people looked on, an effigy of Osama bin Laden is blown up at "The Bunker," a Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America post in Rochecter, Wisconsin, as the final event on of a "Burn Osama bin Laden" event on Sept. 11. Four pounds of black gun powder ensured that the effigy was destroyed completely.

Asia heaves sigh of relief, but alert stays

HONG KONG—Asia breathed a sigh of relief Thursday as Sept. 11 passed without a terrorist attack, but security remained high with many US missions keeping their doors closed.

US missions in Indonesia, Cambodia and Malaysia remained shut.

The Australia High Commission in Islamabad was also still shut down and the British mission in Singapore was closed to the public.

However there were signs that fears had eased slightly from Wednesday's Sept. 11 anniversary date with British missions in the capitals of Indonesia, Cambodia and Malaysia reopening to the public, as did the Australian High Commission in Singapore.

The US embassies in Islamabad and Hanoi also resumed normal operations.

Elsewhere in Asia on Thursday, US diplomatic missions were operating normally, albeit with increased security, in Hong Kong and Thailand.

In Indonesia, the US Embassy in Jakarta and its consulate in Surabaya kept their gates shut indefinitely despite complaints by Indonesian Vice President Hamzah Haz that the closures had hurt his country's image.

The US Embassy in Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, said in a statement it would remain closed "until further notice." *AFP*

Strange behavior aborts US flights

FORT SMITH, Arkansas—Reports of strange passenger behavior led two commercial flights to make unscheduled landings. Three men on one of the jets were arrested, but authorities said neither incident appeared to be related to terrorism.

In Arkansas, Northwest Airlines Flight 979, with 94 passengers and a crew of five, was diverted to Fort Smith, Arkansas, because four men behaved strangely, authorities said.

US Attorney Tom Gean said the men refused to obey the crew's orders. He wouldn't elaborate, except to say that two of them raised concerns by shaving on the flight.

After last year's terrorist attacks, documents found in the luggage of attack leader Mohamed Atta gave what appeared to be instructions for the hijackers: "The previous night, shave the extra hair from the body (and) pray."

In Texas, American Airlines Flight 1702, with 50 passengers on board, returned to Bush Intercontinental in Houston after a flight attendant mistakenly thought a passenger had a knife in his pocket, authorities said. It turned out to be a folding comb, FBI spokesperson Bob Doguim said.

The man, Mark Mathews, a Pakistani native from London, told Houston television station KRIV he believed his Middle Eastern heritage was the main reason he was considered suspicious. *AP*

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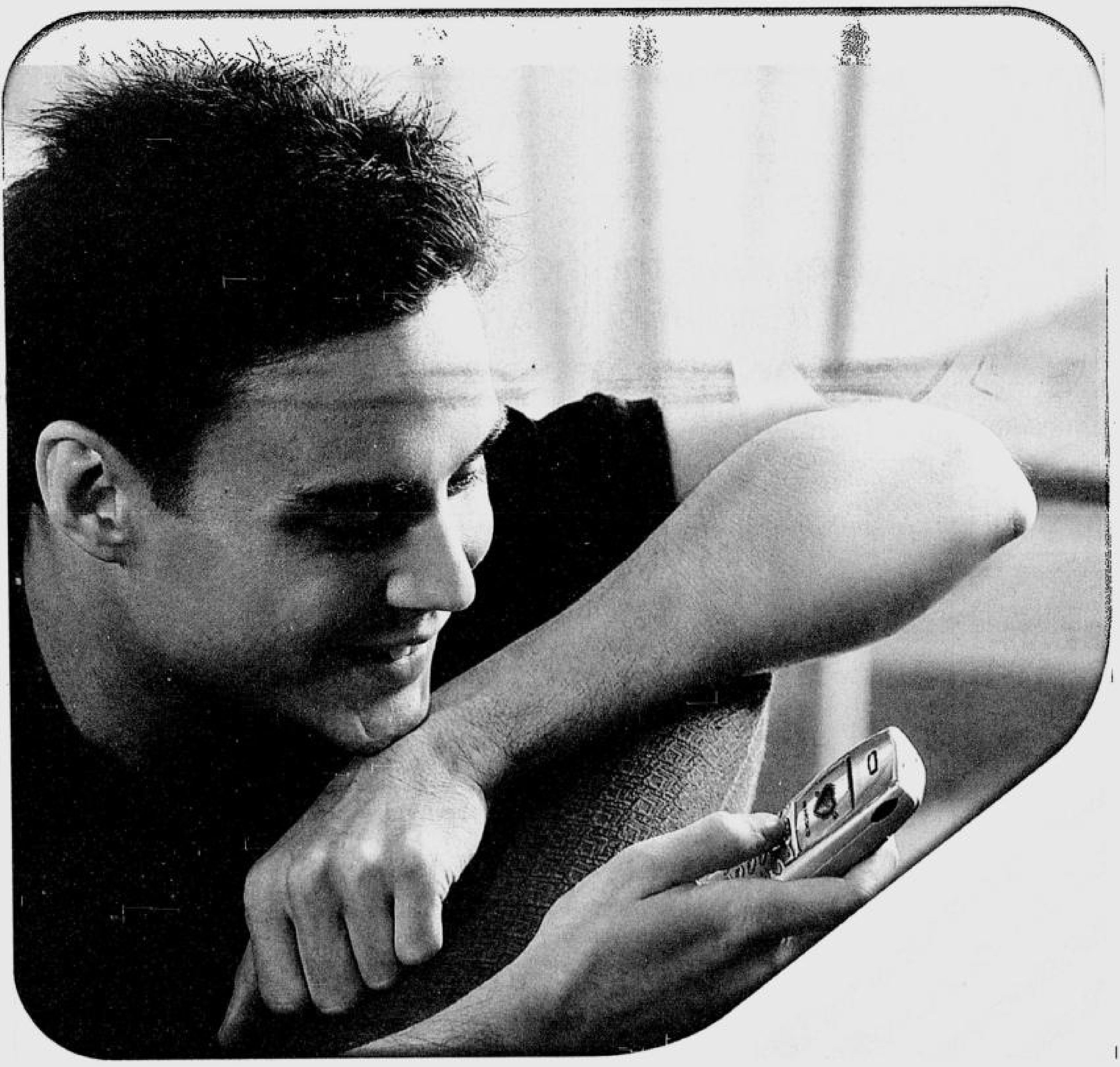

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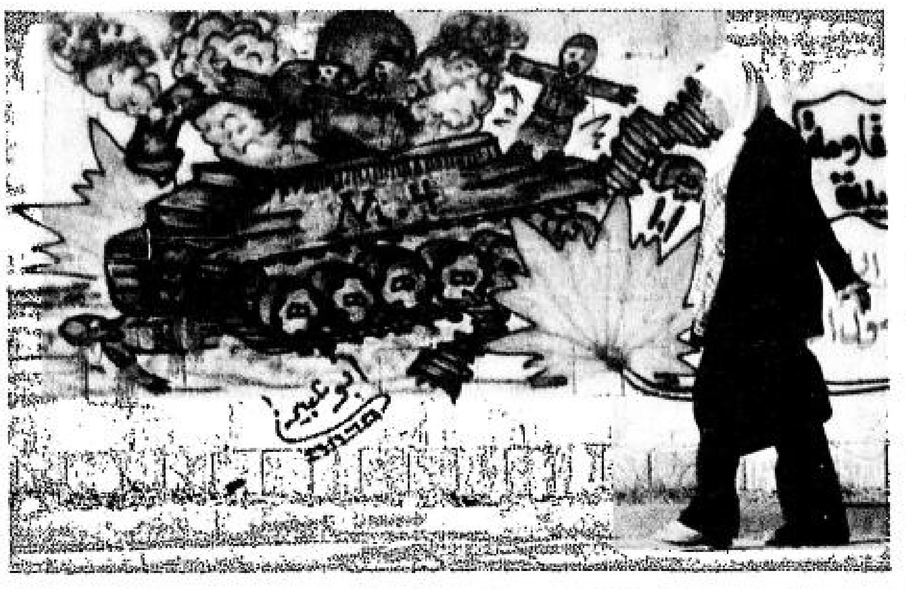

WRITING ON THE WALL A Palestinian woman passes by graffiti depicting the deadly Sept. 5th destruction of an Israeli tank by Gaza militants. The graffiti appeared on a wall at Gaza City on Sept. 12. One Israeli soldier was reported killed, and three wounded, in the attack for which a group made up of several Palestinian factions claimed responsibility. AP

JERUSALEM—The mayor of Ramat Gan, an Israeli town close to Tel Aviv, plans to evacuate the entire population of 125,000 if Iraq threatens missile strikes on Israel, the daily Yediot Aharonot reported Thursday.

The paper also reported that 37 percent of Israel, or around two million people, would have no bomb shelters in the event of an attack by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, seen as likely should Washington strike Baghdad.

Ramat Gan's mayor Tzvi Bar wants to put up the whole town in a giant tent city in the south of the country, the paper said.

"It's not a complicated operation. The people will leave the town for a few days until the storm passes, taking water and food with them in their cars," Bar told the daily, stressing that this time the town would not passively wait for Iraqi missiles to strike.

In the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq fired 39 conventionally armed Scud missiles at Israel, killing two people and injuring several hundred, while causing serious material damage.

Around 10,000 apartments were damaged by Iraqi missiles falling on Ramat Gan, including around 100 totally destroyed, Yediot said.

The mayor said he had informed the military of his provisional evacuation plan.

"There's a danger that a missile with a chemical or biological warhead could fall on my town and I don't see it as an act of heroism that women and children should stay here and wait to be poisoned," he said.

The mayor plans to relocate his people between the towns of Kiryat Gat and Ashqelon in the south of Israel, the daily said.

During the Gulf War, residents of Tel Aviv and neighboring towns headed for areas considered less at risk, mostly around Eilat, a Red Sea resort.

Those departures were on an individual voluntary basis, but the evacuation of a whole town has never been planned before.

Yediot quoted an army brief as saying that 37 percent of the Israeli population would lack shelters in case of a Scud missile attack.

It said the situation was particularly serious for the large Arab minority, which makes up 19 percent of the population as a whole. The document said that 70 percent of Israeli Arabs were lacking bomb shelters. *AFP*

Arafat regroups to keep power

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was scrambling Thursday to retain his authority after being forced to dissolve his Cabinet and call elections for January, measures taken to avoid a humiliating no-confidence vote.

The Cabinet resigned Wednesday in the face of almost certain defeat from members of the Palestine Legislative Council who deemed Arafat's Cabinet reshuffle in June insufficient to cleanse a corrupt administration.

Presidential secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman said Arafat had accepted the decision.

Speaker Ahmed Qorei closed the session, saying parliament would reconvene in two weeks to consider a new Cabinet lineup to be presented by Arafat.

Arafat had scrambled to avoid the blow to his authority, already under attack from Israel and the United States. He is now being assailed by his own lawmakers, who want more fundamental change in the administration, widely accused of incompetence as well as corruption.

As Arafat fended off dissent in the West Bank, the military pressure from Israel continued early Thursday in the Gaza Strip.

Clashes between troops and armed Palestinian gunmen after Israeli tanks rolled into the eastern side of Gaza City, Palestinian security sources and witnesses told AFP.

The shooting occurred as the tanks moved more than 600 meters into the Ishi Jayia and al-Muntara districts, which lie in the city's eastern half, they said. There were no reports of injuries in the clashes.

Four tanks and an Israeli bulldozer also staged a brief incursion into the al-Mughazi refugee camp, south of the city, where they demolished two houses. *AFP*

Sheep-counting championship on

CANBERRA—As a competitive sport, it sounds like a bit of a yawn.

But spectators and participants are expected to flock to Australia's first-ever national sheep-counting championship, which will be held Saturday in the Outback town of Hay, 730 km west of Sydney.

Professional sheep counters, who work at auction yards across Australia, have been busy in recent weeks as farmers facing drought conditions sell off their livestock. Saturday's event is a chance to add a competitive edge to the daily grind.

Sheep counter Mark Jacka said Thursday he had heard all the jokes about a job that was a vital part of country life. "It sounds pretty simple, like anyone could do it, but it's pretty tough," he said.

Under the rules, about 400 sheep will dash past 10 competitors at a time who will try to accurately count them. The contestant whose estimate is closest to the real number of sheep wins.

Once the competition is over, Jacka will be back on duty next week counting up to 60,000 sheep a day into and out of auction yards. "You end up counting 120,000 sheep. You sleep pretty well after that," he said. *AP*

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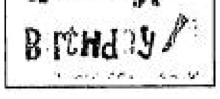

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Maoists call for dialogue with Nepal gov't

KATHMANDU—Nepal's Maoist rebels on Thursday made a fresh call for dialogue with the government, after two massive attacks by the guerrillas left more than 300 people dead.

In a statement sent to several Kathmandu-based newspapers, the Maoists' elusive supremo Pushpa Kamal Dahal said the rebels were ready to declare a new ceasefire if the government was ready to find a "positive and peaceful" way to end the six-and-a-half year insurgency.

"We really want to end this turmoil through a positive political way out, but if the government forces us to fight then we shall fight till the end," said Dahal, better known by his alias Prachanda, or "The Fierce."

"We are ready to declare a ceasefire and participate in the process of dialogue at any point should the government desire so for a positive and peaceful political way out," said the statement faxed Wednesday to the English-language Kathmandu Post.

The statement came just days after thousands of guerrillas attacked security posts in isolated areas of the kingdom, leaving 115 policemen and soldiers dead as well as more than 200 rebels, according to figures from defense ministry officials.

In one of the attacks, the Maoists lined up 49 troops and shot them dead, the officials said.

There was no official government response to the Maoists' call for dialogue, but a source in the Cabinet said that caretaker Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba did not trust the rebels.

"The government isn't taking this statement seriously. It will reject the call for dialogue unless the Maoists give up their demands for a constituent assembly," the official told AFP.

The Maoists want an assembly that would redraft the constitution and, they hope, abolish the monarchy.

Deuba reached a ceasefire with the Maoists shortly after taking office in July 2001. The two sides held three rounds of talks, which stalemated over the Maoists' demands to end the monarchy.

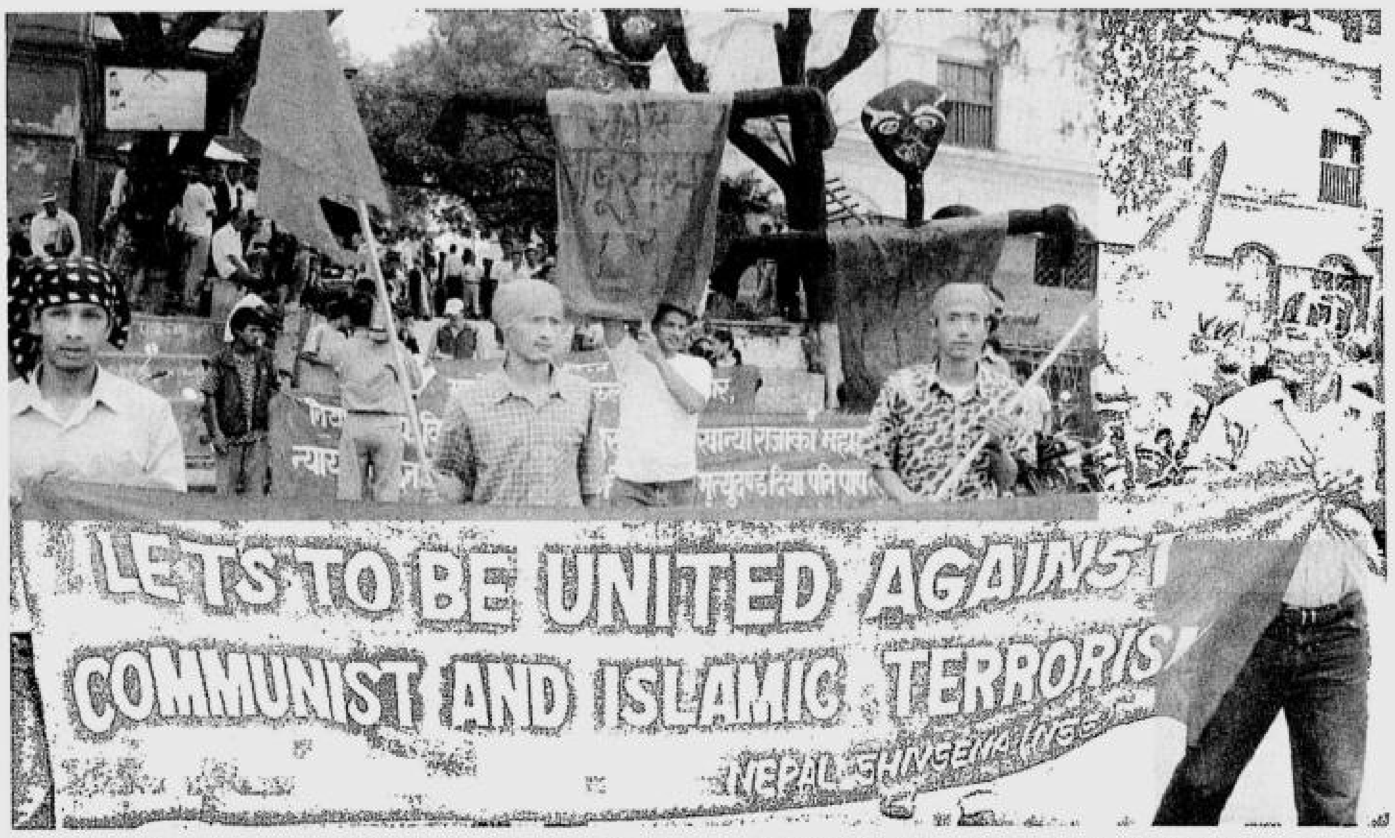
The ceasefire collapsed in late November when the Maoists launched a string of bloody attacks. Since then more than 2,900 people have died, according to official estimates.

Two days after the truce ended, King Gyanendra for the first time deployed the Army against the Maoists and, on Deuba's advice, imposed a state of emergency that gives security forces more leeway to impose curfews and to detain or interrogate suspected Maoists.

The emergency ended Aug. 28 and was greeted by a surge in Maoist violence, including daily small bomb blasts in the normally peaceful capital Kathmandu.

Deuba met his advisers Wednesday to consider reimposing the emergency, but sources close to him said the Cabinet decided not to bring back the controversial measures for the time being.

A delegation from the International Press Institute, a Vienna-based media rights lobby, met with Deuba Wednesday and said he assured "that Nepal had no intention of reimposing a nationwide state of emergency." Nepal heads to the polls Nov. 13, with Deuba's Nepali Congress party effectively split into two. *AFP*



ACTIVISTS of Nepal Shivsena, holding effigies of Maoist leaders, stage a peace rally in Kathmandu on Sept. 12. The rally strongly condemned the Maoists' brutal acts and appealed for peace. Over 4,700 people have died since the Maoists declared their "peoples' war" in 1996. AFP

Air Force plane hits bird, crashes in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan—A two-seat Air Force training plane hit a bird shortly after takeoff and crash landed in the woods in central Taiwan on Thursday, the pilots said. Both men survived without serious injuries.

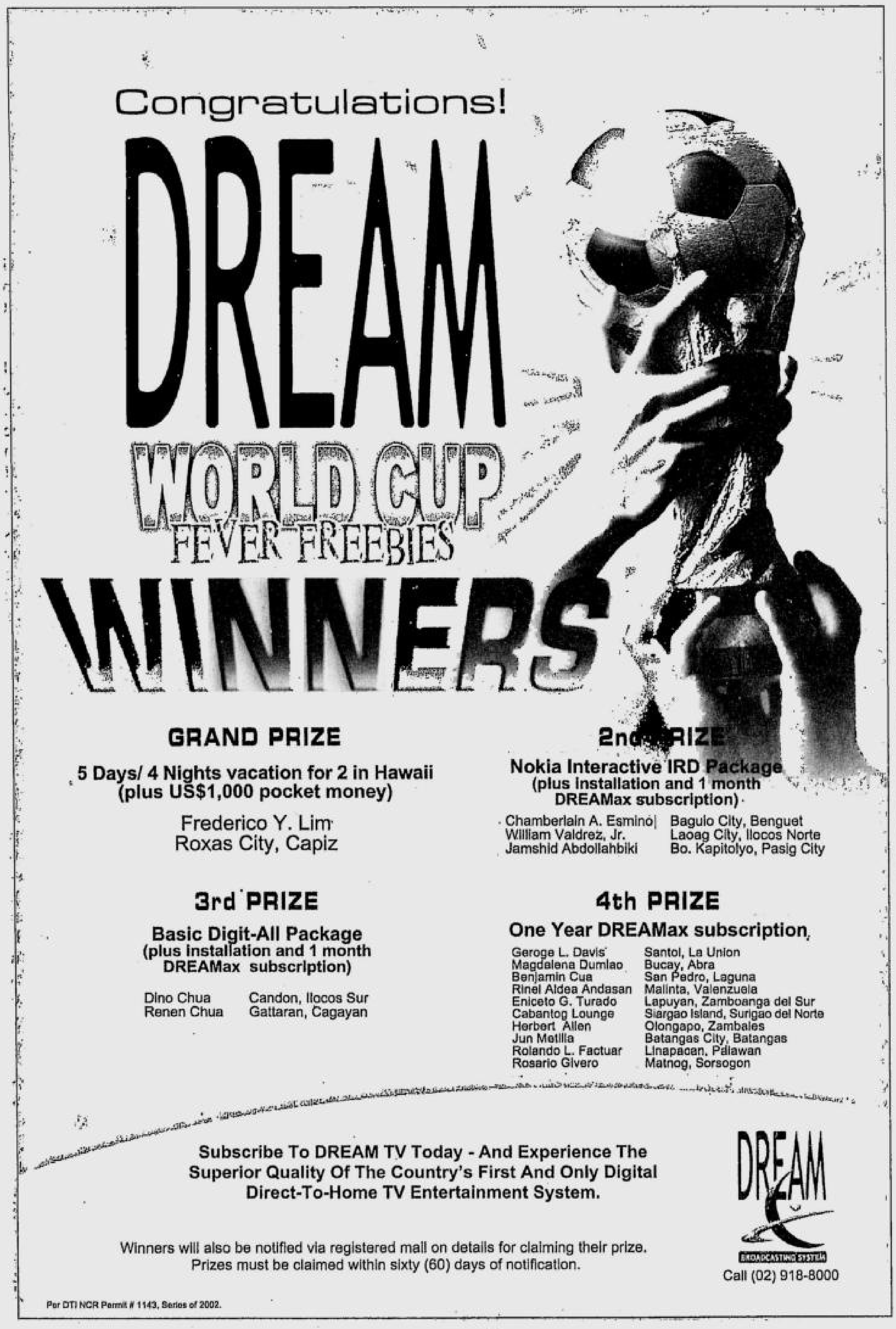
"After we heard a boom, the plane's engine began to stall" and spew flames, said co-pilot Maj. Liu Chin-hsiang. "The pilot said a bird hit the engine."

The pilot, Lt. Col. Chi Wen-kuo, suffered minor injuries after the T-34 Turbine Mentor plane went down near the city of Taichung, an air force spokesman said. The single-prop plane was about 610 meters in the air when it hit the bird, Liu said.

TVBS cable news showed firefighters battling flames and smoke in the wooded area. The front of the plane was burned and all that remained was its tail section.

Birds have been blamed for accidents at other Taiwanese air bases. About three years ago, a pilot of a French-made Mirage jet fighter said his aircraft crashed after a bird was sucked into the plane's engine.

Officials at the air force base near the northwestern city of Hsinchu have urged residents in the area to stop raising pigeons, a popular hobby in Taiwan. *AP*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North Korean mystery ship

TOKYO—Japan's Coast Guard has found several bodies and a small boat likely designed for amphibious landing missions on a suspected North Korean spy ship it recovered from the East China Sea, a media report said Thursday. The bodies were scattered around the rooms of the ship, the Asahi, a major daily, said in its Thursday evening edition. It was unclear how many bodies were on the ship, the newspaper said. A spokesperson for the Coast Guard, who declined to be identified, said he could not confirm the report. The discovery comes less than a week before Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is scheduled to travel to Pyongyang for an unprecedented summit meeting with the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-il. *AP*

Bold escape to South Korea

INCHON, South Korea—Three dozen North Koreans arrived in South Korea on Thursday after bold escapes to foreign diplomatic facilities in Beijing in the latest defection from their impoverished homeland. They bring to more than 115 the number of North Koreans who have slipped into diplomatic premises in China this year and been allowed to leave following delicate negotiations between the North's ally Beijing and the foreign missions involved. They represent a North Korean exile population in China that diplomats say numbers at least 100,000 -- and activists say has reached 300,000 -- who have fled famine and political repression in the world's last hard-line communist state. The defections to wealthy South Korea come at a delicate time, with Seoul stepping up dialogue and economic cooperation with its enemy of five decades. South Korea's diplomatic allies Japan and the United States are also poised to engage the North. *Reuters*

Thai actor guilty of pedophilia

BANGKOK—A Bangkok court on Thursday sentenced a member of a famous Australian-Thai family of actors to 7 1/2 years in jail for molesting minor boys, the harshest penalty ever given for the offense in Thailand. Chalermchai Poopart had been given what was considered a lenient sentence in an earlier child molestation case, leading to a public outcry that the courts were letting him off easily because of his family's high profile. On Thursday, the Central Criminal Court convicted and sentenced him to 10 years in jail on two charges of molesting minors and illegally detaining them, a court offical said on condition of anonymity. However, because he had cooperated in the investigation, the court reduced his jail term to 7 1/2 years, the court official said. The 36-year-old former actor and model was arrested in June 2000 for allegedly forcing two boys to perform oral sex on him. It was not immediately known if he would appeal the sentence. Chalermchai's elder and younger brothers are well-known models, TV soap opera actors and Thai pop singers. The youngest brother, Oliver, is currently playing the lead role in one of Thailand's most popular TV dramas, "Different Worlds." *AP*

Phone blitzes, grasshoppers, snakes

HONG KONG—First came several dozen annoying phone calls. The next day, the anonymous debt collector became more persistent, phoning Albert Ho's law firm more than 300 times to scream obscenities, play pornographic tapes or just stay silently on the line. On the third day, the number of calls shot up to 687. "It was extremely disturbing," said Ho. "It jammed the normal calls, keeping my clients waiting and affecting my business." And Ho wasn't even the target. The husband of an employee had gone bankrupt, leaving his office at the mercy of Hong Kong's often unscrupulous debt collectors, who have gone on a rampage as the economy worsens and bad loans multiply. Collectors have been known to throw snakes, or a swarm of grasshoppers into an apartment to hasten debt repayment, or to hang the carcasses of dogs and cats outside. Banks, credit card issuers, telecommunications companies and other lenders employ debt collectors who sometimes threaten the lives of debtors and innocent third parties, including friends, relatives, business partners or credit references. *AP*

Afghans turn to cannabis

KHANA ABAD, Afghanistan—Obeying a Taliban edict, many cannabis cultivators stopped growing the plant used to make hashish when the hard-line Islamic militia was in power. Now some of those farmers are back in business. They're so open about it that fields of sturdy cannabis plants, some well over 2 meters tall, line part of the main road leading west from Mazar-e-Sharif, the biggest city in northern Afghanistan. With the main harvest expected in one to two months, growers in the roadside village of Khana Abad, 30 km from Mazar-e-Sharif, say they'll ignore government warnings to tear up their crops. "Maybe it isn't good for our people, but we have to do it because of our economic problems," said Rouzudin, a farmer who said he heard the warnings broadcast on the radio only after investing a large sum in his hemp plot. He might just be able to harvest his leafy, dark green crop without state intervention. Since the Taliban's ouster in a US-led war last year, Afghanistan's new government and the United Nations have focused anti-drug efforts on eradicating opium-bearing poppies, which are used to make heroin. *AP*

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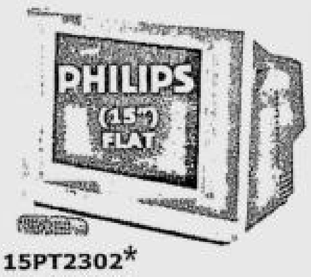

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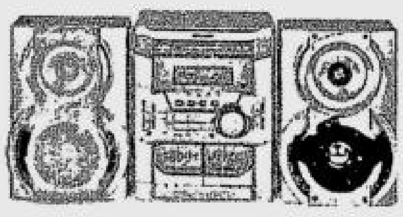

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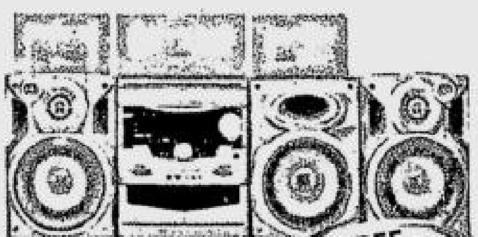

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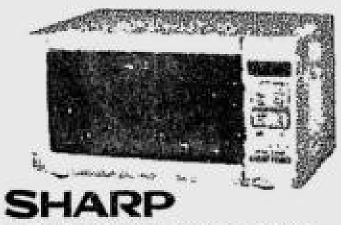

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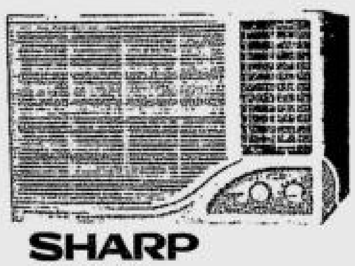

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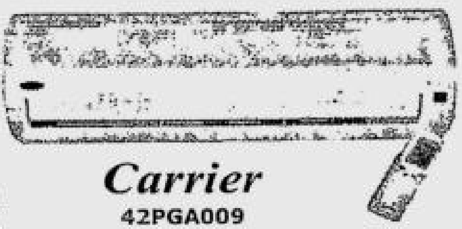

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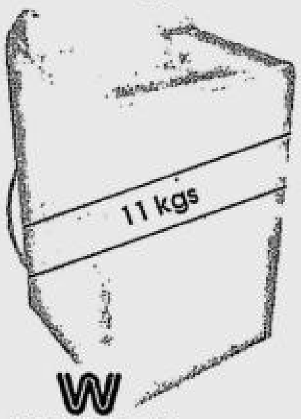

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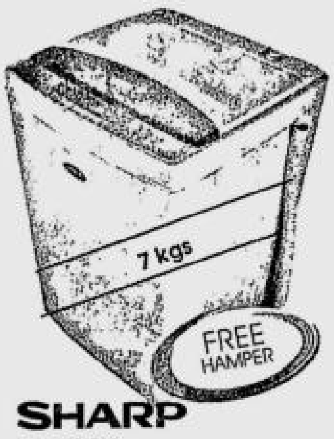

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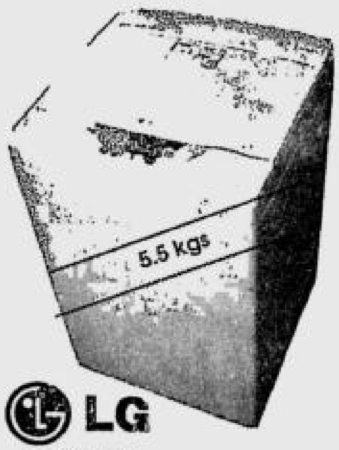

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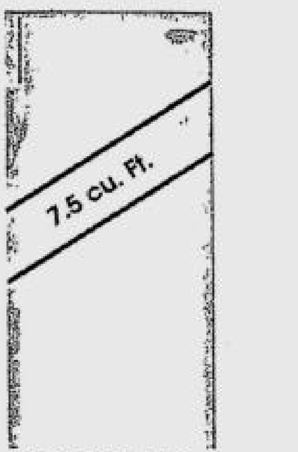

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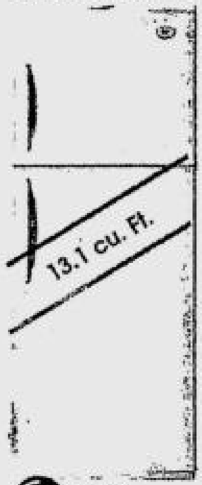

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Evacuation on after collapse of dam spillway

By Cesar Villa and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN MARCELINO, Zambales—Environment officials on Thursday ordered the evacuation of some 1,000 families in three villages here following the collapse of a spillway of a mine tailings dam and continuous heavy rains in the province.

Leonardo Sibbaluca, Department of Environment and Natural Resources executive director in Central Luzon, said a team of mining engineers was sent to the dam site of Dizon Copper and Silver Mines Inc. (DCSMI) on Wednesday to supervise the evacuation.

He said the villages of Buhawen, Aglao and Makarang were in danger of being swamped with mine wastes and water from the damaged Bayarong spillway of the DCSMI. The villages are below the Kaline pit of the DCSMI. They also surround the Mapanuepe Lake, which remains to be the lone saving factor of the residents from a looming disaster.

Since heavy rains hit Zambales in July and began causing the dam's spillway to crumble, the 1,000-hectare lake had served as catchment area of mine wastes and water spilling from the Bayarong and Camalca dams.

Insp. Romeo Barbadillo, police chief here and leader of a five-member team sent to assess the damage in the dam site, did not discount the possibility that the dam would collapse because of heavy rains.

"Should (the dam burst), thousands of lives, including property and work animals, are endangered not only because of heavy flooding but due to the chemical residues mixed in the dam's pond," he said.

Gov. Vicente Magsaysay cautioned residents here, especially those living in low-lying areas, to take precautionary measures or seek safe grounds should the dam collapse.

The first—and the most immediate—situation that is being watched is the flow of a big volume of mine wastes and water streaming from the two dams. Wastes and water would eventually flood the Mapanuepe Lake and spread through the residential areas.

There are revived farms near the lake. Aetas and upland farmers, through boats, use the lake to transport their agricultural goods to Buhawen and, by jeepneys, to San Marcelino town proper, some 30 km from the village.

The Dalanawan outlet, built by the DCSMI in 1993, is expected to hasten the flow of water from the lake and reduce the threat of flash floods, according to Jaime Tongol, the chief of the firm's maintenance team.

Tongol said worries over the health impact of mine wastes were without basis since the company did not use mercury because its gold ore was shipped out and processed in Japan.

He said warning systems—the tolling of church bells and blaring of sirens—have been put in place to warn villagers of any disaster.

Communication systems are also at hand. The dams are being monitored on a 24-hour basis, Tongol said.

Company officials, he added, recommended the evacuation plan just to be sure about the residents' safety.

Peñafrancia feast kicks off

NAGA CITY—The country's only regional fiesta, the Feast of the Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia, kicks off today with unique religiosity founded on homegrown beliefs and tradition evolved through 282 years of devotion to the Bicol patroness or Ina.

Celebrated from today, the second Friday, up to the third Sunday of September, the event stands out as the biggest religious festivity in the region whose devotees practice a mix of animistic beliefs and Spanish-nurtured Catholicism.

Msgr. Romulo Vergara, rector of the national shrine of the Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia, said the Catholic Church believes on a peculiar devotion to the Ina. "God, in the process of 'inculturation,' manifests his influence and guidance in varied ways that start from the inherent culture of the people who assimilate the Catholic faith," he explained.

Today, a strictly all-male contingent of *voyadores* or bearers of the *andas* (carriage) of the Ina will transfer (*traslacion*) her image from the Basilica Minore to the Naga Cathedral. The women devotees stay in the side of the streets and wave white handkerchiefs above their heads when the Ina passes by.

As in previous years, emotions are expected to run high and explode into thunderous applause and shouts of "Viva La Virgen! Viva La Virgen!" *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Soldier wounded

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—An Army soldier was seriously wounded in a clash with New People's Army rebels in Floridablanca town Wednesday. Reports said the wounded, Sgt. Robert de Guzman was airlifted to the V. Luna Medical Center in Quezon City after the 7:45 a.m. encounter in Barangay Sapang Bayabas. Soldiers from the Army's 24th and 69th Infantry Battalions engaged some 30 NPA rebels in the 30-minute encounter. They reportedly recovered an M-14 rifle, a shotgun and a power generator.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Lotto operator robbed

BAGUIO CITY—Three men on Tuesday robbed a lotto operator here and took at least P277,000 worth of lotto collections, police said. Reports said the victim, Lilian Combes, took a cab in going to a bank to deposit the money, but the three men boarded the vehicle along Bonifacio Road and immediately announced the holdup. Police said the robbers could have studied Combes' routine and tailed her.

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

7 nightclubs closed

OLONGAPO CITY—Local officials closed seven nightclubs and bars in Subic, Zambales, for offering lewd shows and employing minors. Subic Mayor Jeffrey Khonghun said the establishments violated his earlier order to stop indecent shows in Barangay Calapandayan. The minors were recruited from Metro Manila.

Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Illegal drug suspects held

BAGUIO CITY—Police arrested five suspected illegal drug traders in separate operations on Monday and Tuesday. Supt. Danilo Manzano, regional director of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, identified the suspects as Arnel Ramos, Jay Hidalgo, Carlos Sison and his wife Rowena, and Danilo Guimabaolit. Police said the Sison couple and Guimabaolit were arrested on Tuesday in Barangay Trancoville here. Seized from them were 97.7 grams of shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride worth P191,400, a Honda CRV and P91,000 cash. Ramos and Hidalgo, who were arrested in a buy-bust operation on Monday, informed policemen about the whereabouts of Sison's group.

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Medical help

OLONGAPO CITY—Zambales Rep. James Gordon Jr. said the United States government has pledged to a yearly $500,000 medical assistance to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City to help Filipino war veterans. Gordon, vice chair of the House veterans affairs committee, assured the veterans that the US Department of Veterans Affairs would release more benefits every year to upgrade the VMMC's equipment. Gordon has filed House Resolution 169, also known as the Veterans Equity Act of 2001, which seeks medical and burial aid for Filipinos who fought together with American soldiers during World War II.

Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Funds for El Niño

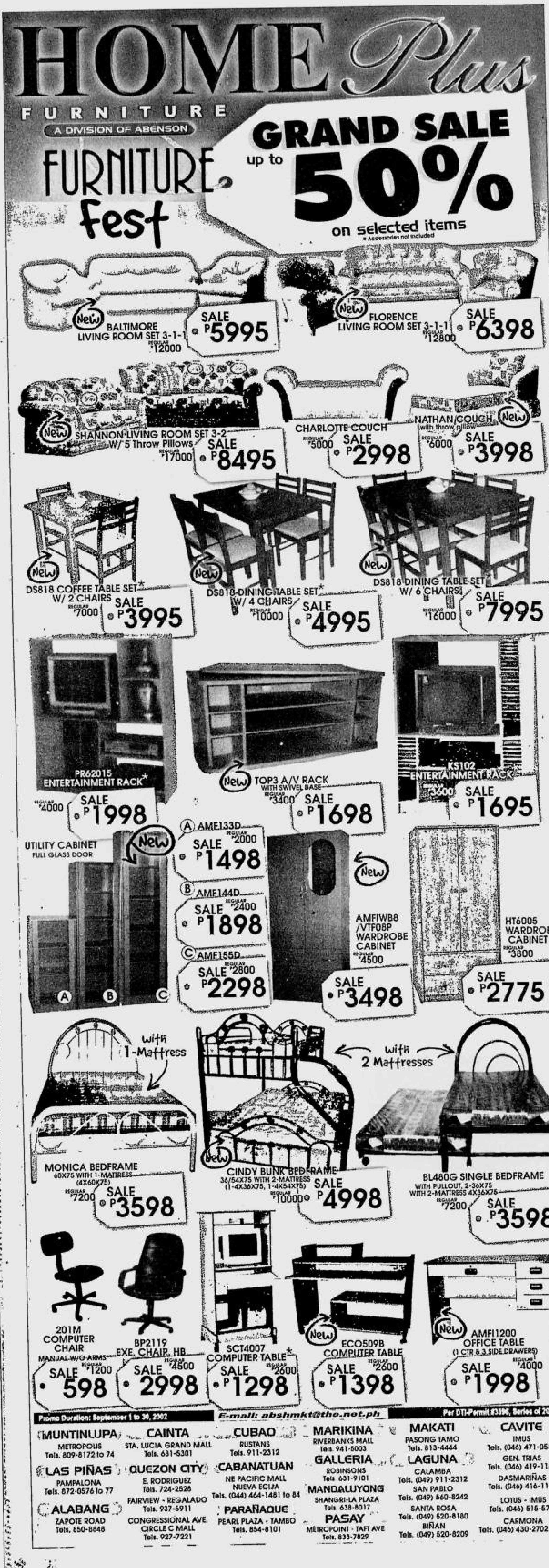
SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has provided funding for a series of trainings on the mitigation of the effects of the El Niño weather phenomenon. The training program, to be done in five batches, will be conducted at the Water Resources Management Center of the Central Luzon State University here until December. Dr. Ireneo Agulto, training coordinator, said the program would involve farmers, agriculture technicians, irrigation engineers and other people who can help fight the effects of the drought brought about by the El Niño. The first batch of trainees from the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Cordillera, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and Bicol completed the training early this month. Agulto said the trainers come from the pool of experts in agricultural and irrigation engineering of the CLSU.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Rob suspects kill 2

CABANATUAN CITY—Two men were killed by three suspected robbers in General Tinio town on Monday. Police identified the victims as Angel de la Cruz, 40, a car dealer from Bulacan, and Ramiro Villasis, 36, his driver. Their companion, Samantha Garcia, 25, escaped from their attackers, police said. Reports here were not clear how the assailants were able to board the victims' Honda Civic car. The area where the victims were attacked, a road at Barangay Rio Chico in General Tinio, is more than 21 km from the national highway in the City of Gapan. The killers took the victims' bag containing P1 million.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk



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Cancer victims tour N. Luzon on bikes

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

URDANETA CITY—The sixth year for every cancer survivor is actually the most dangerous as it is the time when cancer cells are likely to strike again.

But to James Auste, who was diagnosed with brain cancer in 1996 when he was 19, his sixth year of recovery serves as a challenge to fight the disease.

Auste and a group of volunteer bikers are embarking on a bicycle tour around Northern Luzon to help people understand cancer with emphasis on early detection, proper management and care.

The two-week project, called "Bike for Life Northern Luzon Journey," started on Aug. 31 and will end on Sept. 15.

Auste's group held a forum at the Urdaneta City National High School where Auste told students the story of his fight against cancer.

"It started with a pain in my knee," he recalled. He did not mind the pain, thinking it could just be muscle pain. Then he suffered back pains and started losing weight.

It turned out that Auste had two cancerous nodules in his brain, one in the pituitary gland and another in the pineal gland.

Auste's faith in God enabled him to survive. It helped, too, that Auste's parents could afford the expensive medical treatment in the United States and the medicines he had to take to control the cancer cells.

He said he also had to take hormone pills because his pituitary gland could no longer produce hormones.

But many young cancer patients are not as fortunate.

"Every day, 10 Filipino children are diagnosed with cancer. Eight of them die. But most of the times they die not because of the cancer in their body but because of cancer in their pockets. They do not have the money for the treatment and the medicines," Auste, 25, told the students.

In a voice that belied his exhaustion from biking, Auste said he knew the pain every cancer patient experiences, especially the poor children.

He vowed to dedicate the rest of his life fighting cancer among children, in whatever way he could.

"Every Filipino child must have an equal chance to conquer cancer and to avail of cancer treatment," Auste said.

In May 2000, Auste, together with a group of volunteers, organized the Cancer Warriors Foundation whose members' lives have been touched by cancer. The foundation's members have a relative who is either dying of or fighting cancer.

"This is a journey for life," Auste said. "I used to have a very simple life and a simple dream—to study, to graduate, to 'gimmick' and to have a job later. But I learned that my life has a purpose—to help other children with cancer, to help those who cannot eat or sleep because of the pain caused by cancer," he said.

Through the "Bike for Life," now on its third year, the foundation is able to raise funds through donations and selling shirts and stickers.

To date, the foundation has helped 25 children, 10 of them have fully recovered from the disease and are now living normal lives.

"But we have also lost some children," Auste said.

Auste's story and the story of his "wards" have touched the students of UCNHS, where the bikers stayed for a night before going to Tarlac.

Most of the students had to go without snacks, dropping instead their recess money to the donation box intended for the cancer victims being supported by the foundation.

The school principal, Remedios San Juan, said the students and teachers collected bills amounting to P1,800.

"We did not count the coins anymore because the bikers had to go," she said.

Teener seized

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Six unidentified armed men snatched a 14-year-old student of the International School inside his family's house at the Villa Candida Subdivision here on Tuesday morning.

The victim was seized by two of the men, armed with .45 cal. pistols, who barged into the kitchen and dragged him outside into a waiting car while their companions posted as lookouts.

Chief Insp. Felicisimo Khu Jr., city police director, said the victim's uncle was preparing to drive him to school when the abductors came. The boy has been under the care of his uncle since arriving from the United States where both his parents live as immigrants, Khu said. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO AFPSLAI MEMBERS

AMENDMENT IN THE SCHEDULE OF ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS

As duly approved by the AFPSLAI Board of Trustees, starting 3rd quarter of 2002 (September 15 – December 14), placement date for additional capital contributions is extended up to the 17th of the month of September, December, March and June. The computation of dividends shall be based on the lowest quarterly balance as follows:

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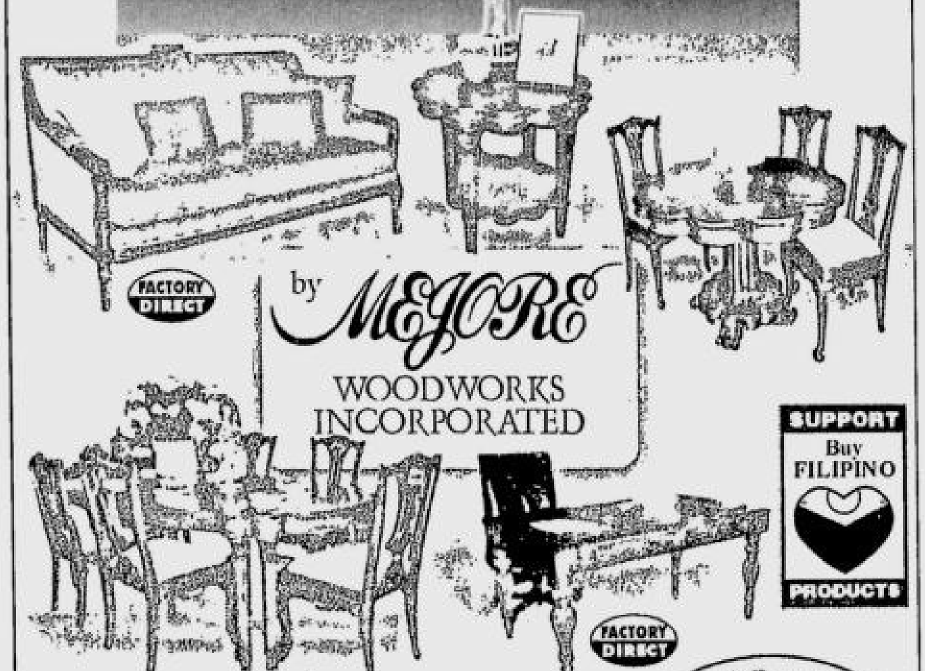

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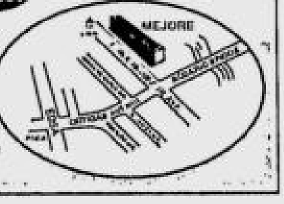

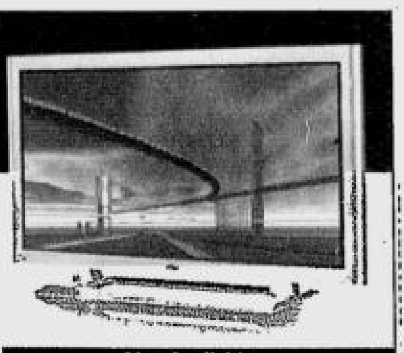

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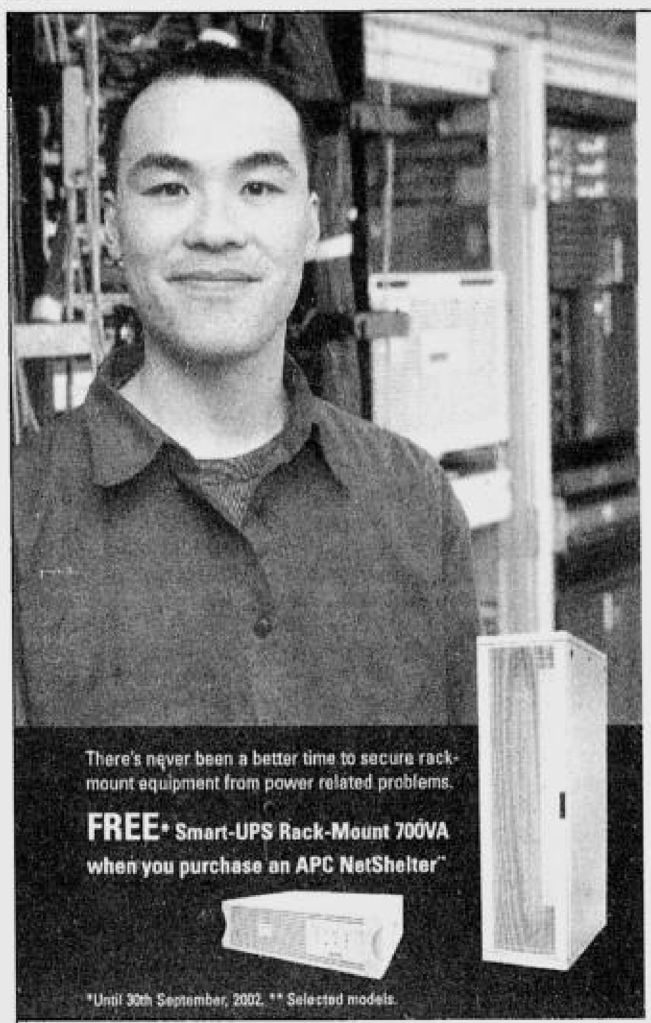

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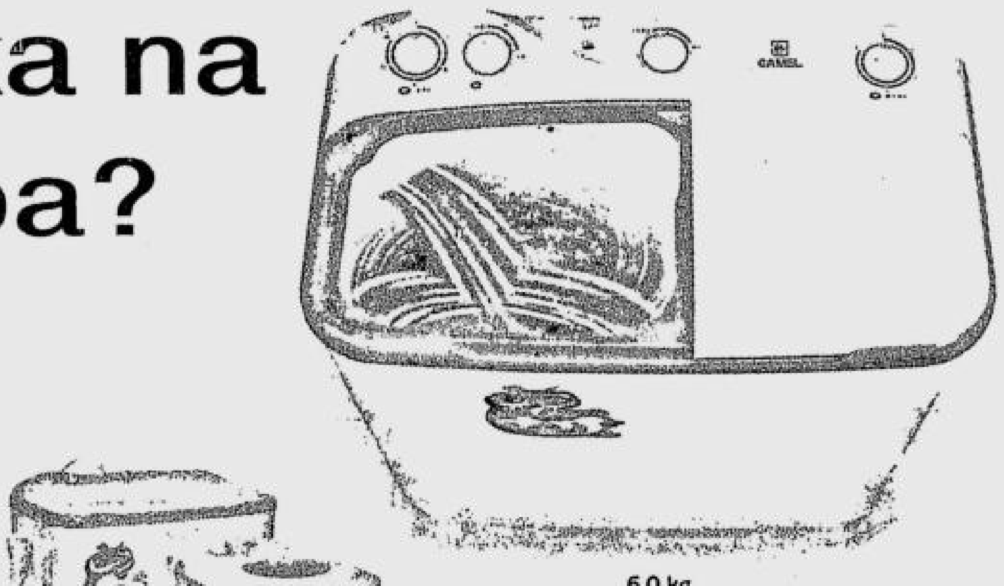

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Bush to UN: Act or else

From page A1

speech, the US warned that Iraq has stepped up its quest for nuclear weapons and has embarked on a worldwide hunt for materials to make an atomic bomb.

In the past 14 months, the document said, Iraq tried to purchase thousands of specially designed aluminum tubes that officials believed were intended as components of centrifuges to help produce weapons-grade uranium.

Bush asked UN members— there are 190 of them—to pressure Saddam to readmit international inspectors after a lapse of more than 3 1/2 years to look for hidden arms, and then to compel him to disarm.

These demands are rooted in resolutions adopted during and after the 1990-91 Gulf War that forced Iraq to reverse its annexation of Kuwait. Iraq denies it is developing weapons of mass destruction.

Deadline

At the same time, Bush hoped to gather support from reluctant allies and others for using force against Iraq if it balks. Bush's strategists, meanwhile, were considering setting a deadline with serious consequences if Saddam does not comply.

In his remarks, Annan called on Saddam to admit UN weapons inspectors or face any consequences the Security Council might impose, while emphasizing he opposed unilateral US action against Iraq.

"When states decide to use force to deal with broader threats to international peace and security, there is no substitute for the unique legitimacy provided by the United Nations," said Annan.

To underline the importance of Annan's remarks, the United Nations released his speech Wednesday night.

Secretary of State Colin Powell did some preliminary diplomacy on Wednesday, discussing what he described as a need to enforce Security Council resolutions with the foreign ministers of the other four permanent council members—Britain, China, France and Russia—along with his German and Australian counterparts.

In a speech to the nation Wednesday night marking the anniversary of last year's terror attacks, Bush made indirect reference to his campaign against Iraq.

"We will not allow any terrorist or tyrant to threaten civilization with weapons of mass murder," he said.

Air strikes

UN-Iraq talks since March have failed to get Saddam to agree to the return of inspectors, who left in December 1998 ahead of US and British air strikes to punish Saddam's government for not cooperating with inspections. Iraq said it wanted to continue the dialogue—but with a broad agenda on outstanding issues which Annan has rejected.

Britain is solidly in the US camp. But German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has dismissed military action as an "adventure" and other foreign leaders have expressed doubts. Bush has said he is prepared to act unilaterally if need be.

British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon, who met with US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld on Wednesday, said diplomacy should and would come first.

"But when dealing with dictators, diplomacy must be backed up by the certain knowledge in the dictator's mind that behind the diplomacy lies the real threat of force being used," Hoon said in a speech at the Heritage Foundation in Washington.

Efforts by Bush to win congressional support were having mixed results. The chair of the Senate foreign relations committee said Wednesday that he did not think the time had run out for diplomacy. Moving alone against Iraq would be the worst option, said Sen. Joseph Biden, a Delaware Democrat.

"I will be extremely disappointed if the president goes and enunciates a unilateral approach: 'The world be damned, here we go.' That is not in our interest," Biden told the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia. *AP*

91 world leaders light eternal flame

From page A1

Among those in attendance were Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, South African President Thabo Mbeki and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Four Freedoms

During the half-hour ceremony, Bloomberg read excerpts from "Four Freedoms," part of Franklin D. Roosevelt's Annual Message to Congress, delivered on Jan. 6, 1941.

"This nation has placed its destiny in the hands and heads and hearts of its millions of free men and women, and its faith in freedom under the guidance of God," he read. "Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere. Our strength is in our unity of purpose. To that high concept, there can be no end save victory."

The event was broadcast live to concert locations in each of the five boroughs or districts of New York City.

"The memory of those we lost will burn with unending brightness and ignite a flame of freedom that lights the world," Bloomberg said.

After the flame was lit, the dignitaries, each holding a candle, joined Bloomberg as a New York City high school chorus sang "America the Beautiful."

Many world leaders were in New York for the UN General Assembly's annual ministerial session, which begins Thursday. The date of the meeting had been pushed up from Sept. 24 at the request of the Bush administration.

Bloomberg has said the globe-like sculpture will likely serve as a centerpiece for a permanent memorial, plans for which are still being worked out.

Before the ceremony, Air Force jets in formation flew over the park.

Among the hundreds of onlookers was Jose Morales, 55, a maintenance worker from the Bronx who wore a T-shirt with a photo of the Twin Towers with the words: "Gone but not forgotten." "The city has changed so much, it has brought everyone together," Morales said.

Reading of names

An emotional day of reflection was highlighted by the reading of the victims' names by 197 relatives, local politicians and other public figures. The ceremony took 2-1/2 hours.

As they listened, relatives and friends descended into the 8-story deep hole where the towers once stood to lay flowers, wreaths, quilts and other symbols of remembrance in a ring built at the base of the ramp leading down. Some were stoic, but many family members and friends hugged and wept.

Marianne Keane, whose father died in the collapse of the towers, read from a speech she gave at his memorial service. "I don't remember the last time I told him that I loved him. But I think he knows that now," she said.

"I miss you, and I hope you didn't hurt too much," she said on a stage mounted at the west side of the site for the ceremony that was broadcast across the globe.

"We have to move on, we can't stay on the same ground always, we have our own lives to live," said Kit Mak, who attended the ceremony in honor of her sister, officer worker Yuk Ping, who was killed in the attacks that tore a gash in the New York skyline and shocked and saddened the world.

Many families may never reclaim the remains of their loved ones. Of the 2,801 killed in the towers and on the two planes, only half have been positively identified from their remains.

The official total does not include 10 hijackers, five on each plane.

"They were our neighbors, our husbands, our children, our sisters, our brothers and our wives. They were our countrymen and our friends," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said of the victims.

"They were us."

Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani began the reading of the names, which was punctuated by the peal of bells to mark the moment the second hijacked plane struck at 9:03 a.m., the moment the first tower fell at 9:59 a.m. and the moment the second tower fell at 10:29 a.m. *AP, Reuters, AFP*

Filipino women in black join Ground Zero rites

NEW YORK CITY—Foreign communities in this city, from Filipinos to the British, from Indians to Germans, paid tribute to their dead a year after the Sept. 11 terror strikes.

A group of Filipino women dressed in black and carrying around their necks the identification of one of their countrywomen who died in the World Trade Center gathered at Ground Zero to remember.

Aimee Dechavez, 23, of New Jersey, lost her brother Jayceryll Dechavez, 24, who was a portfolio analyst in the WTC's south tower.

"It's great that New York is doing this for the families and honoring the victims," she said at the ceremony at which victims' names were read.

"They never found any parts of my brother, so for us he is here. This is the last place he was seen so this is where we want to be." Eleven members of her family were on hand, including five who came from the Philippines. Dechavez's mother, Asuncion, was among relatives who read out the names.

The Philippine Consulate and the local Philippine community sponsored a Mass late Tuesday at St. Malachy Church in Manhattan, which was attended by some 500 people, according to spokesperson Agnes Puazon. Eighteen Filipinos died in the towers and another three in the plane crashes, she said.

A church service commemorating British victims was also held at Trinity Church, with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Mayor of London Michael Oliver.

A memorial with a quote from Queen Elizabeth II inscribed on it was dedicated at the church in honor of the Britons killed. The monarch sent the message, "Grief is a price we pay for love." *AFP*

RP draws brickbats for support of US plan to attack Iraq

From page A1

only to Filipinos in Iraq but also to thousands of other Filipinos in the Middle East who could be affected by the impending war."

Although no request had been made, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said early this week that the United States could use Philippine air space in its military operations against Iraq. He subsequently said the administration would not support a US war on Iraq—a statement later echoed by Malacañang.

But Padilla said the Philippines' offer was "uncalled for" and a "provocative act" that could result in "retaliation by Iraq."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, however, said: "Our first concern is to ensure the safety of our citizens in Iraq. We would not want to be involved farther beyond what is necessary."

Bunye also said the offered use of Philippine air space was academic because the US government had not made any formal request.

"At this time, I don't think that's necessary," he said. "As we've said, we don't want to go into something that is not warranted."

Speaking over radio station dzRH, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez reiterated that the President's order for evacuation was only a precaution, and that it did not mean a US attack was imminent.

"We are just being careful. There is no clear indication yet that hostilities in Iraq would start. We are monitoring the situation very closely," he said.

US President George W. Bush will have the chance to convince other countries to take the US stand on Iraq when he delivers a speech before the UN General Assembly later Thursday, Golez said.

But Senate foreign relations committee chair Manuel Villar said the administration should also be prepared to evacuate Filipinos in neighboring Middle East countries, especially those sympathetic to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Our embassies and consulates in countries with proximity to Iraq must have contingency measures and be prepared to evacuate Filipinos if there is imminent threat to their safety," he said.

The KMU's Malunes said that once the US troops started attacking Iraq, other Middle East countries such as Saudi Arabia and Jordan might be forced to send away foreign workers.

"The Philippine government must effectively address the problem of escalating unemployment in the face of the possible mass evacuation of Filipinos from the Middle East," he said. "Imagine the war's possible effect on millions of Filipinos and their families. Widespread joblessness, starvation and poverty accompany every war."

The Philippine Embassy in Baghdad is now "making arrangements" to transport all 118 Filipinos in Iraq across the border to Amman, Jordan, according to Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros. *Reports from C. Avendaño, A. Donato, D. Pazzibugan, A. Nocum and R. Nazareno in Manila; A. Zonio and A. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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US thanks RP; GMA renews support

From page A1

the 31st of July, which included upwards of 1,200 US soldiers training alongside very capable (Filipino) soldiers had some significant results, especially in Zamboanga . . . Together, I think that we have already had some very good progress in combating terrorism."

Pace also told the INQUIRER that the second Balikatan or joint military exercises next month would be "a mutual training opportunity, not a specific focused mission" involving "maybe 400 or 500 US soldiers at any one time.

Pace said the training, which starts next month, would be "to learn tactics, techniques and procedures and to share ideas about how to combat terrorism, and also how to just increase our capability military to military, to be able to work together."

As planned, the Balikatan exercises will take place in Luzon. But "the two governments are still discussing opportunities throughout the Philippines to train together," the general said, adding he did not want to "focus on a particular island."

The general noted that of the 1,600-member troops that were in the first Balikatan, "a couple of hundred stayed behind as a bridge" between the forces that were there to train last time and the soldiers that will train in the months ahead, "to do the planning with your military and with your government to see what was possible."

The first joint military exercises aimed to neutralize the Abu Sayyaf, a bandit group operating in Mindanao that has reported links with the al-Qaida. The al-Qaida is associated with Osama bin Laden, primary suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The United States has labeled the Abu Sayyaf as a terrorist organization.

The first Balikatan engaged in the rescue of American hostages Gracia and Martin Burnham and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap. Only Gracia survived in the crossfire during the military operation last June. She's now back in Kansas with her family.

In her letter to President Bush, Ms Macapagal said, "The Filipino people join me in conveying to you our solidarity with the American people in remembering today those who tragically perished on Sept. 11 that year."

"Since that fateful moment, the Philippines and the United States have stood together as allies with the international community in the common defense of freedom and liberty against terrorism," she added.

She also underscored her administration's policy of a joint war against terrorism and povery. She stressed that "the war against terror will not improve global security unless we redouble our efforts to advance global growth and quality of life at the same time."

Ms Macapagal had wanted to personally express the country's solidarity and support to Bush at the opening of the UN General Assembly Thursday in New York.

Shortest stint as CIDG top honcho: 24 hours

From page A1

Commission designated Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao as the new CIDG head, the chief of the Philippine National Police named Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano to the critical post.

PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. also ordered Lomibao to stay at his post in Region 1 (Ilocos).

Matillano, former police director for Region 11 (Southern Mindanao), turned off his mobile phone when the INQUIRER tried to reach him for comment. Lomibao, director for Region 1, also could not be reached for comment. The previous CIDG head, Nestorio Gualberto, retired on Sunday, and turnover rites are scheduled for 2 p.m. today.

Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson, confirmed Matillano's appointment. He said Matillano had been originally recommended for the post by Director Virtus Gil, then director for personnel and records management, and now acting chief of the directorial staff. He pointed out that Ebdane, as PNP chief, could modify Napolcom resolutions on assignments. "That's his prerogative," he said.

Besides, he added, Matillano has been "waiting for a new assignment" for a couple of months now.

Special projects

Bataoil said Lomibao was ordered to stay at his post "so he could continue his special projects and programs" in Region 1.

Asked why there were two appointments in one day, Bataoil replied, "I'm not privy to it."

The Napolcom, headed by Local Government Secretary Jose Lina, announced on Wednesday the names of 37 police generals included in the first major reshuffle since Ebdane assumed the top PNP post in early July.

It issued a resolution confirming the designation of the 37 officials to key positions in the PNP. Among those officials were Lomibao, who was designated director for the CIDG, and Matillano, who was named director for Region 1.

Ebdane, who sits as a commissioner in the Napolcom, said that the reshuffle was the result of a thorough consultation with concerned sectors.

Also included in the reshuffle were Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay (acting deputy chief for operations), Directors Avelino Razon (director for human resources and doctrine development) and Domingo Reyes (director for Southern Tagalog), and Chief Superintendents Reynaldo Berroya (deputy inspector general for internal affairs) and Nicolas Pasinos (deputy director for operations), five of the seven officials relieved by the Napolcom in July for failing to curb illegal gambling in their respective areas of responsibility.

Yesterday, a couple of police officials assumed their new posts.

Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal took over the post of Chief Supt. Robert Delfin as director for the Intelligence Group. Delfin replaced Director Hercules Cataluna as director for intelligence, while Cataluna was named director for plans.

Why US gov't raised global alert warning

From page A1

can speak fluent English. I think he has some skills in flying and also scuba diving."

Mendoza interrogated a member of Mohammed's cell, who told him attacks would soon move beyond one suicide bomber to bigger operations by land, sea and air . . . a foreshadowing of al-Qaida attacks Mohammed would be involved in: the 1998 bombings of the US embassies in East Africa, the bombing of the USS Cole in 2000—and less than a year later, Sept. 11.

"He (Mohammed) established a cell in Manila with multiple plots against the US: to bomb American planes, assassinate Bill Clinton and hijack and crash planes into buildings in the US," Ressa said.

Mohammed was finishing the groundwork in 1999—meeting with one group of Sept. 11 hijackers in Germany and a few months later, the second group in Malaysia.

Jabarah worked with al-Qaida's senior representative in the region Omar al-Faruq, to push local cells to acquire a goal of 21 tons of explosives to be used for suicide bombing attacks against US and Western interests in the region.

Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, chief of the PNP Intelligence Group, said the single al-Qaida cell in the Philippines had been immobilized following the arrest of Indonesian Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi on Jan. 15 in Quiapo, Manila. Al-Ghozi, who admitted to taking part in the bombings in Metro Manila on Dec. 30, 2000, was sentenced to 18 years for possession of a ton of explosives.

CNN has learned that Mohammed, who carries a Saudi passport, applied for a US visa extension in the summer of 2001, according to Ressa. It was denied, but it was only later that authorities discovered his real identity.

Quoting Jabarah, Ressa earlier reported that an al-Qaida plot hatched in Singapore to attack US and other Western interests had been moved from Singapore to Manila. Jabarah, a Kuwaiti-born Canadian, was arrested in Oman in March.

Ressa's report on Monday was also based on information supplied by Al-Faruq, who was arrested in Indonesia on June 5. He is now in US custody at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

The New York Times reported on Sept. 10 that a crash analytical effort by the Central Intelligence Agency corroborated the information with intelligence reports from other detainees and with material obtained from intercepted communications.

The information apparently prompted US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly to warn Philippine Ambassador to Washington Albert del Rosario of an al-Qaida plot to bomb US embassies in Southeast Asia with trucks filled with explosives.

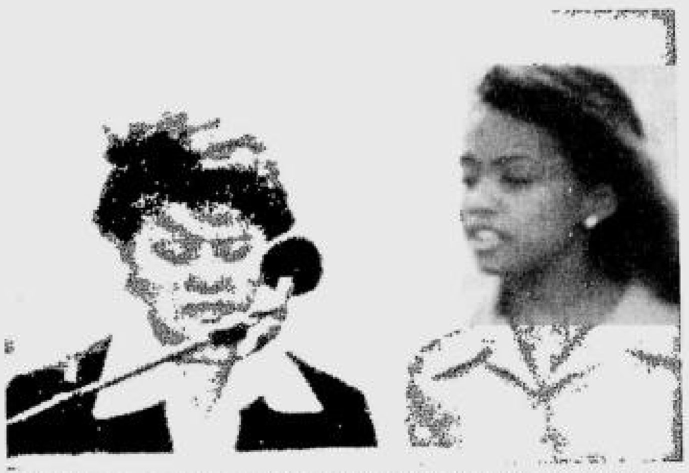
Rush of pain hits heroic Pinay nurse

From page A1

happened.

"I was fighting that my voice would not crack. It was tough ... very moving," Rebecca, a native of Zamboanga del Sur, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview from her apartment in New York yesterday.

What made it even tougher for Rebecca was that for the reading, she was paired with a 28-year-old widow whose husband died in the twin bombings.



FILIPINO nurse, Rebecca Canalija, at the Ground Zero memorial rites on Wednesday reads some of the names of the victims together with the widow of Shane Booker, Sharon. CNN TV GRAB

She said she immediately bonded with Sharon Booker, a mother of three, who only last week received what remained of her husband Shane: a foot and three ribs.

"I was there, hugging her, being a nurse again. I told her we have to be strong together," she said. "I was trying to be strong for her."

Canalija did not pry on Shane's background but simply let Sharon cry on her shoulder when her husband's name was called out. Sharon will bury her husband's remains next week, Rebecca said.

Memories

Sharon did not have to remind her of what it was like. Rebecca carries around with her the memory of burned faces, of mangled extremities, the anguished cries. There was a man whose head had cracked and whose brains she held in her hand.

She cannot forget David Bernard, a resident of Boston who was at the World Trade Center to attend a conference. After introducing herself, Bernard whose lungs had collapsed and was paralyzed, asked her: "Rebecca, am I going to die?"

She held the patient and said: "David, you have to be strong. We are here to help you." Bernard was incubated inside the hospital's intensive care unit. He died three months later.

When Bernard's wife Nancy learned about Rebecca's unflagging efforts to make it easy on her husband, Nancy hugged her and thanked for being there at the moments when her husband needed comfort most. Later, Nancy sent a touching letter to her, saying she would never forget the Filipino nurse.

Nancy wrote that she still considered herself lucky because for spending three months with her husband before he died, unlike the many other bereaved who did not have a chance to see the remains of their loved ones.

Breakdown

After the ceremony, she was swept by grief. While walking back to the hospital, she needed a box of tissue because she was near tears. She let go at the NYU Downtown Hospital. She closeted herself inside a room and cried her heart out for half an hour. A staff member brought her a glass of water and told her to go home and take the day off.

The scenes in the hospital came back to her. "It was like reliving the moment and the worst part of it was the reason behind the attack," she said.

Suddenly, Rebecca was crying over the phone while talking to the INQUIRER. "*Abi nako dili na ko mohilak* (I thought I would not cry anymore)," she said while trying to control her voice.

When asked why she does not take a vacation and come back home, she said between sobs: "I am scared of flying." she developed the fear after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Good side

The good side about the ceremony was that she glad-handed some pretty important people. One of them was Sen. Hillary Clinton who met Rebecca after the nurse had finished her turn at the reading of the victims' names and stepped down from the podium.

She said she was happy that Clinton still remembered her, a year after they had met when the senator visited the NYU Downtown Hospital after the 9/11 attacks.

She said her precocious 9-year-old daughter kept shaking her mother's hands because these had ouched the hands of famous personalities.

If she hugged the VIPs, her daughter hugged her, too."

Hero

Rebecca was the emergency nurse on duty at the NYU Downtown Hospital on that fateful day. "I was very strong that day. I was focused. I was doing my job. It was really, really tough. There were pieces of flesh hanging, brains coming out . . ." she recalled.

Because she served beyond the call of duty, she has been considered as a Ground Zero hero. Last year, she was awarded the Frontline Heroes Recognition Award.

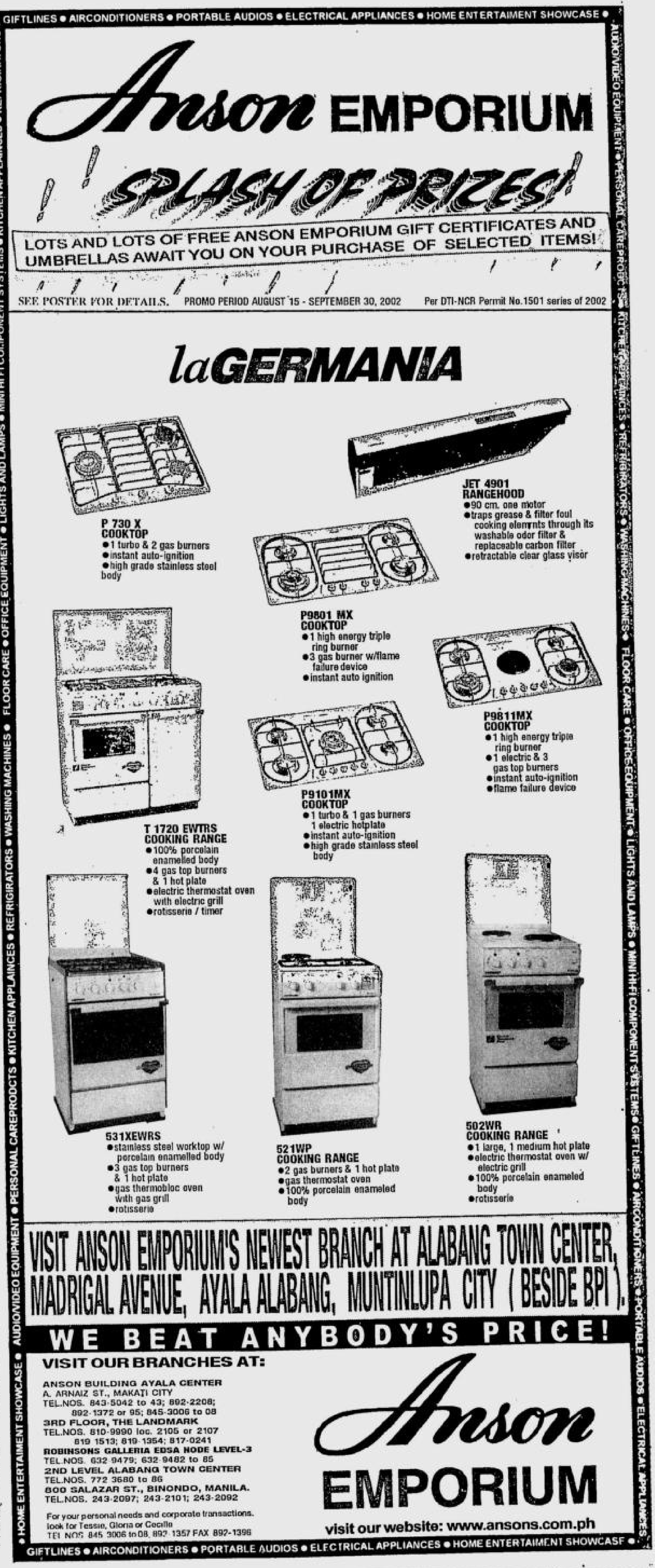
She said she did not aim for recognition when she went out of her way to help the victims.

"I just did what I had to do like anybody would have done if they were in my position. I was just doing my job," she said.

But she's amused at the attention she's been receiving. International cable news networks like CNN have interviewed her. She was also featured in the San Francisco-based Filipino Magazine and New York based-Filipino Reporter (Sept. 6 to 12 issue).

She said her classmates from Cebu Velez College of Nursing (not Cebu Institute of Medicine as earlier reported) whom she had not heard of in five years called her up to tell her they were proud of her.

When asked if she would go through it again considering all the recognition she has received, immediately, she replied: "No, I wouldn't want to go through it again."



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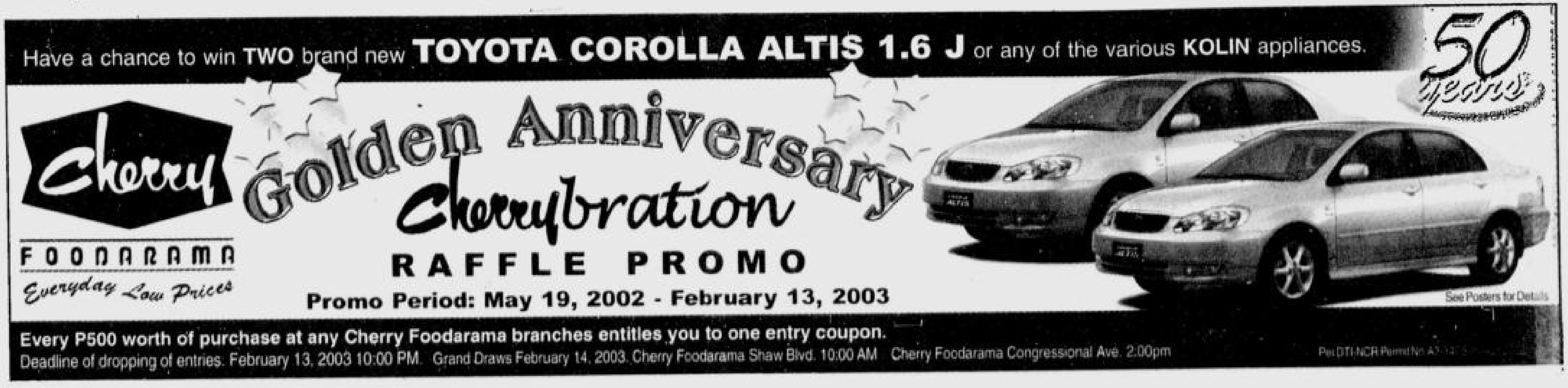

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Bomb scare hits UK Embassy

By Christian V. Esguerra, TJ Burgonio and Dona Pazzibugan

A CALLER warning of a bomb, prompted British diplomats and staff to briefly evacuate the embassy in Makati City yesterday.

The call came a day after Malacañang announced that the United States had told the Philippines that al-Qaida planned truck bomb attacks on US embassies in Southeast Asia on or after Sept. 11.

Police bomb squads found no bomb but the prankster succeeded in terrifying some 200 people holding office at LV Locsin Building. The British Embassy occupies the 15th and 17th floors of the building.

Tension gripped the building after Deni Mocon, an employee of LV Locsin Partners on the 19th floor, got a call from a man at around 7:30 a.m., according to a report of the Makati Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT).

"Bumaba na kayo dyan sa 18th floor. *Pasasabugin namin yang British Embassy,"* Mocon quoted the caller as saying. Embassy employees and those from other offices rushed out of the building.

The eight-member team of bomb experts led by SPO1 Eduardo Ugaddan declared the building safe at 10:15 a.m. Still, embassy officials sent their employees home.

Tenants at the two buildings were not made to leave as police discreetly made rounds and later discovered the threats to be a hoax.

"We have been receiving calls of this nature since this morning," a police officer who responded to one of the calls said. "And it is best to check on all of them." It was not known who made the threats, but police said they were investigating. Malacañang is taking the al-Qaida threat of a "truck bomb" attack seriously, although National Security Adviser Roilo Golez is downplaying the threat.

"Reports like this cannot be brushed aside. We should never let our guard down," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said. He said the police and military remained on heightened alert.

Golez said the threat to the US Embassy in Manila was not that serious. "While the US has temporarily closed its embassies in four countries (in Southeast Asia), its embassy in the Philippines remains open," he said over dzRH. "That means . . . the security situation here is OK."

He said US Ambassador to Manila Francis Ricciardone "feels very comfortable with the kind of security the government is providing."

Golez said James Kelly, US State Department Assistant Secretary for Asia-Pacific, who disclosed to the Philippine Embassy in Washington the truck bomb threat, was airing a general warning to US embassies in the Asia-Pacific, not the Philippines in particular.

Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, newly designated director for intelligence of the national police, said the police intelligence community had not monitored any plot to bomb the US Embassy in Manila using trucks filled with explosives. "While that is the style of terrorists, we have no such report," he said.

New AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor Jr. also downplayed the threats. "There is no cause for alarm. There's no specific threat but we are prepared all the time," he said.

BRITISH Embassy is heavily guarded by Makati police after it received a bomb threat early Thursday morning at the Locsin Building.

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'MILF trained 40 foreign militants'

THE COUNTRY'S biggest Muslim separatist group trained about 40 foreigners in the use of firearms and explosives in their camps in Mindanao as late as last year, a senior police official said yesterday.

Chief Supt. Roberto Delfin, head of national police intelligence, said the Moro Islamic Liberation Front trained foreign Islamic militants despite having forged a truce with the government.

"They have four small camps that they used in training foreign nationals," Delfin said, adding he believed the camps were still in operation.

"It was said there was always training there. About 30 to 40 . . . all foreign nationals," he said, but without citing his sources.

Delfin described the training as "basic firearms (and explosives). How to make and detonate them."

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu immediately rejected the charge and any implication that the group was linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

"We deny that MILF camps are being used to train terrorists," Kabalu said.

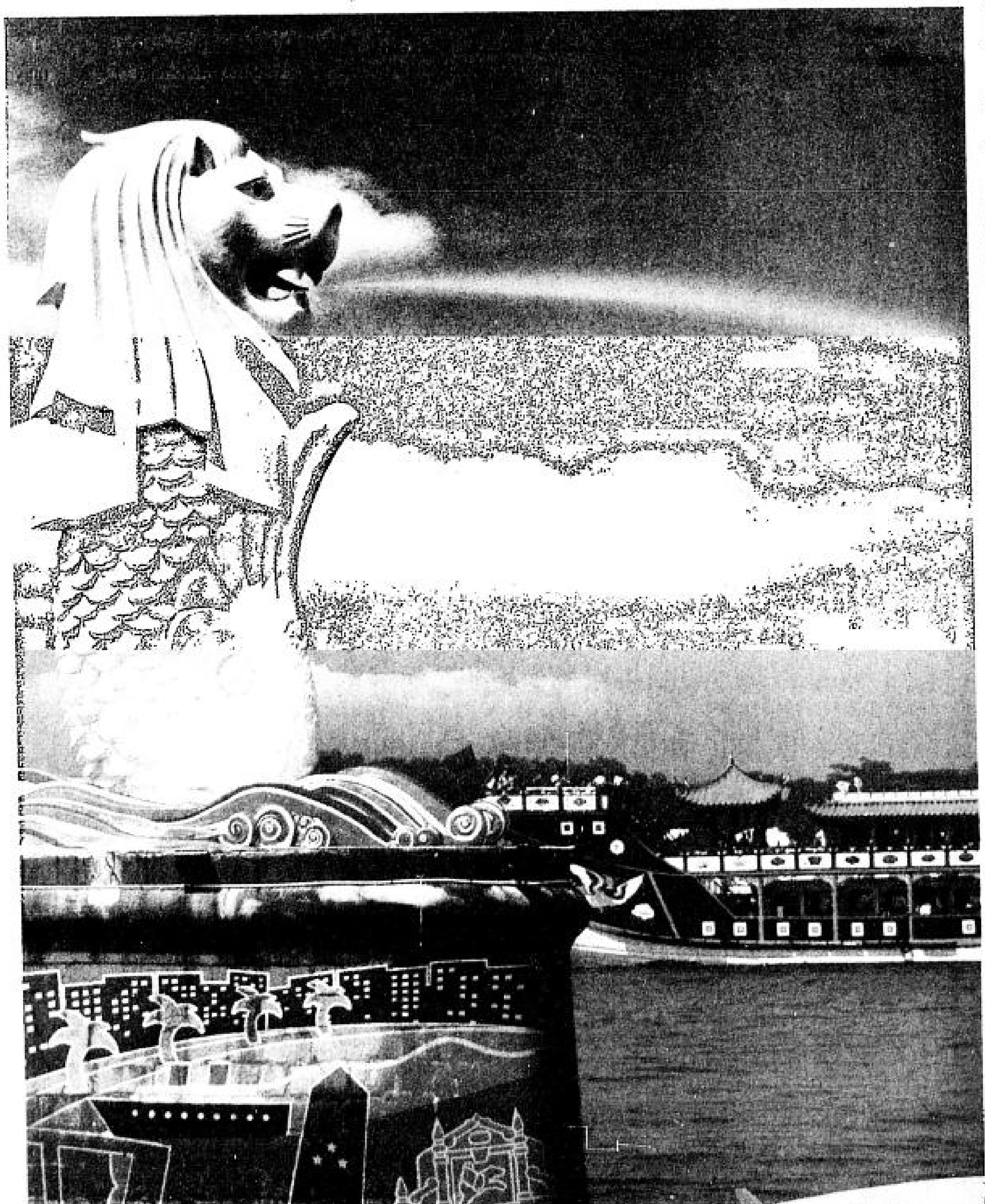
Delfin did not say what country these foreigners originated from or what group they might be affiliated with.

But he said the foreigners left the Philippines after Indonesian Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi was arrested in January.

Authorities have said al-Ghozi was an explosives expert for the Jemaah Islamiyah extremist group, which they say is al-Qaida's Southeast Asian network.

Al-Ghozi is now serving a 12-year jail sentence for illegal possession of a caché of explosives and falsification of passports.

Prosecutors allege that he has also admitted to plotting and financing a series of deadly bomb attacks in Manila in December 2000 that claimed more than a dozen lives. *AP*



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Nicole, 9, mom to her brother . . .

From page A1

Corvite.

She is inclined to art and loves to draw and color (her favorite color is pink). She has a beloved Barbie doll, and until she was stricken, she was an active child who liked such outdoor activities as biking and horseback riding.

Despite her youth, Nicole served as her mother Irene's able and willing assistant in caring for Kevin since his birth.

Irene suffered from a congenital heart problem, and in a tragic turn of events she died of a heart attack six months ago during Kevin's first birthday party. She was only 36.

Nicole was so traumatized by her mother's sudden death that she shuddered every time she saw a blood pressure gauge.

But she struggled to cope with her loss and dedicated herself to becoming a "mom" to her baby brother. She reveled in her newfound role, making sure Kevin was comfortable, playing with him at every opportunity after her classes, changing his diapers and preparing his bottle, and lulling him to sleep.

Indeed, she joyously took upon herself a responsibility no one can imagine bearable at her tender age.

Another tragedy

Now another tragedy has set in, and Nicole's world is crumbling again.

On June 8, she had sudden gum bleeding and, a week later, high fever. She subsequently developed abdominal pains and rashes all over her body.

Thinking it was a case of dengue, her father took her to the hospital. It was not dengue, but something infinitely worse.

Treatment for AML leukemia patients ranges from transfusions of red cells and platelets, aggressive prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infections with broad-spectrum antibiotics (e.g. vancomycin, ticarcillin clavunate, sulbactam, etc.) to aggressive chemotheraphy and, as often proved necessary, a bone-marrow transplant more effectively from an identical sibling.

Such treatment covering the phases from remission induction to post-remission lasts about one year or more.

Nicole has had frequent transfusions of bags of red cells and platelets, and has been bombarded with antibiotics to ward off infections that can at any time prove fatal.

Her attending physicians, Dr. Benjamin G. Co and Dr. Mary Ng Chua, believe that the best treatment to save Nicole's life is a bone-marrow transplant—an extremely expensive operation costing at least P2.5 million.

However, because Nicole's father Ferdinand is unable to raise enough funds to pay for the operation, the doctors have been applying aggressive chemotheraphy to help her in her fight to save her life.

Five weeks since the treatment started, the aggressive chemotheraphy does not appear sufficient to beat Nicole's AML leukemia. Her condition has not improved, and the almost two-month-old battle with the disease is taking its toll on her deteriorating health and fragile psychological state, not to mention the financial drain on her family.

"MOM" Nicole Figueroa and baby brother Kevin tries to cope with a double tragedy: The loss of their mother and Nicole's fight for her life.

Help needed

Nicole urgently needs your help, not only in finding a bone-marrow match but also in paying for her medical bills.

Her brother Kevin and the rest of her family cannot bear to lose another loved one. Ferdinand Figueroa has not even gotten over losing his wife, and it appears like he will also lose his only daughter if a bone-marrow transplant is not performed soon.

Any amount will go a long way. If you are unable to offer monetary assistance, your constant prayers or a personal visit to Nicole will be sincerely appreciated.

Nicole needs all the help to win the biggest battle of her young life—to survive AML leukemia. Time is not on her side.

For offers of assistance, call Ferdinand Figueroa at (0918) 905-1689 or (632) 698-9608, or his cousin Dr. Jay Alvarez-Sarmiento at (0917) 810-2508. In the United States, call Joy Alvarez-Adriano in New Jersey at (732) 471-7650 or Keith C. Alvarez in Texas at (972) 939-2924.

Dr. Mary Ng Chua may be reached at the Chinese General Hospital Room A-6 daily except Thursdays, 711-4141 local 424; at UST Room 109 on Tuesdays 2-4 p.m., 731-3001 local 2396; at the Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital Room 105 MWF 4-6 p.m., 727-0001 to 17 local 705.

Dr. Benjamin G. Co may be reached at UST Room 109 MWThS, 731-3001 local 2396.

Lucky 13 for La Salle / A22
Asiad cheerleaders / A23
Bayron Riviera leader / A23

SPORTS
Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ Associate Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SUERTRES 2 0 3
SIX DIGIT (In exact order) 2 7 3 9 9 8
SUPERLOTTO 6/49 5 8 21 26 35 40

Russian chessers humbled

THE REST of the World chess team completed its surprising mastery of Russia, 52-48, Thursday in their Match of the Century at the Kremlin Hall in Moscow.

Banking on the victories of Hungary's Peter Leko and Spain's Alexey Shirov, the Rest of the World bested the Russians in the decisive Round 9 (5.5-4.5) to seal the outcome of the dual match held only for the third time.

The Russians emerged victorious in both the 1984 match in London, 21-19, and the 1970 match in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, 20.5-19.5.

Anatoly Karpov was the lone winner for Russia in Round 9 when he toppled England's Nigel Short.

Enjoying a comfortable four-point lead going to the 10th and final round, the Rest of the World never let up and held the Russians to a 5-5 count through the victories by 15-year-old Teimour Radjabov of Azerbaijan and Spain's Alexey Shirov. *Roy Luarca*

Chess Olympians try again

Estimo, Torre want Buhain to reconsider

By Roy Luarca

THE NATIONAL Chess Federation of the Philippines, through its secretary general, lawyer Sammy Estimo, yesterday appealed to the Philippine Sports Commission to reconsider its decision denying financial assistance to the Philippine team to the 35th Chess Olympiad in Bled, Slovenia.

"We're not losing hope. We're going to ask PSC Chai Eric Buhain to reconsider our request," said Estimo. "We understand that most of the money will be spent for the Asian Games, but we're only asking financial assistance for 10 people who are also looking to bring honor to the country."

In a decision forwarded to the NCFP offices last Wednesday, the PSC board disapproved its request for financial assistance of P1.5 million "due to budgetary constraints." The bulk of PSC's budget for the year has been allotted to the 218 athletes and scores of officials bound for the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, starting late this month.

Estimo said that unless the PSC board reverses its decision, the country's preparation for the biennial Olympiad set Oct. 25-Nov. 11 would be affected.

"We're concerned that the players will lose their focus," said Estimo.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre, perennial skipper of the Philippine men's team, echoed Estimo's sentiments.

TORRE

ESTIMO

"I hope they (PSC) won't abandon chess at this stage. After all, it is a medal sport and this is the Olympiad," said Torre. "Records will show that our chess players have also brought honors to the country since we first joined the Olympiad in 1956."

In the 34th Olympiad in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2000, the Filipinos landed 17th among 126 countries. Their best effort was seventh in Thessaloniki, Greece, in 1988.

Other members of the men's team are GMs Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor, international masters Mark Paragua and Nelson Mariano II, and NM Petronio Roca.

Composing the women's team are WIMs Arianne Caoili and Beverly Mendoza and WNMs Sheerie Joy Lomibao and Kathryn Ann Cruz.

Dasmariñas hosts Active

THE 2002 Shell National Youth Active Chess championship moves this weekend to Dasmariñas, Cavite, for the sixth leg of the annual chess festival nationwide.

Avid woodpushers nationwide are expected to convene at the F. Barzaga Memorial School where the tournament will be held.

At stake in the seven-round Swiss system now sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines are a combined purse of P27,000, medals, and slots to top performers in the national finals next November.

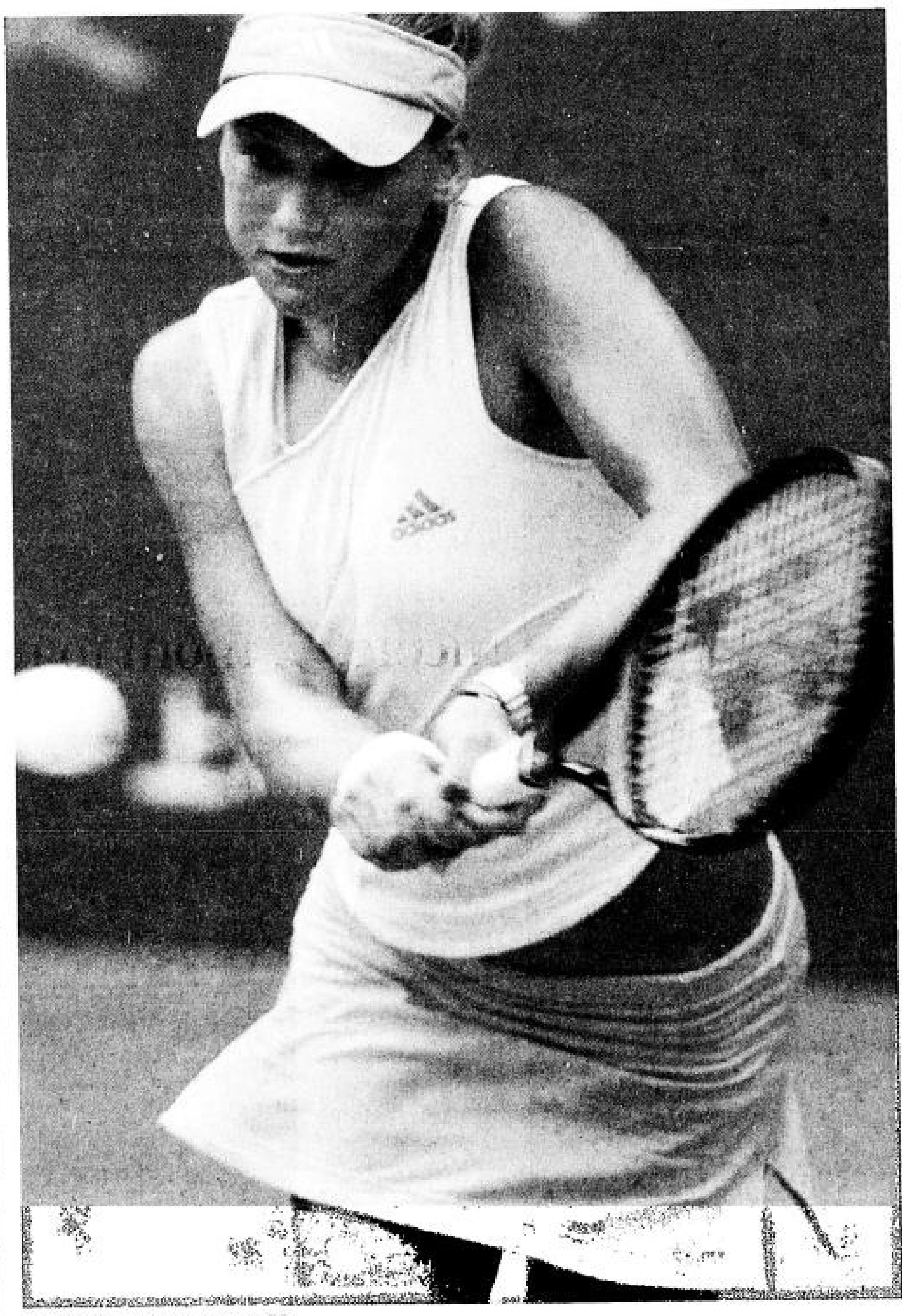
Special awards will be given to the tournament's youngest participant, including the "Art A. Borjal Commemorative Award" for the most outstanding performer in the 10-under bracket, and the school fielding the most number of participants.

Invited to grace the tournament's rites are Dasmariñas Cavite Mayor Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr. and Pilipinas Shell's General Manager for External Affairs Roberto S. Kanapi.

Piñol's Braves stop Padala

CEBU CITY—Gov. Manny Piñol's North Cotabato Braves dropped the upset ax on ML Kuarta Padala via an 84-78 win even as the ML Lhuillier Jewelers overcame Manila's Forex Cargo, 87-80, to remain unbeaten Wednesday in the CBL Crunchtime at the Cebu Coliseum. The Braves lived up to their monicker as they withstood the last-ditch uprising of the Cash Forwarders in the stretch to notch their second win in three games.

"We took the lead most of the time in the early going, we shifted our focus on defense in the final minutes. I told my men to be patient in taking our shots," said North Cotabato coach Efren Piñol.


KOURNIKOVA SCORES
Russian tennis star Anna Kournikova hits a backhand during a single's match against Chinese Zheng Jie yesterday in Shanghai. Kournikova won, 6-4, 7-6 (2). AP

Immonen, Deuel battle Bata, Django

FILIPINO billiards fans will get another chance to watch four of the greatest players in the world when the "Revenge of the Masters" is held on Sept. 17-20 at the Yacht Club in Subic.

The tournament will be staged by Viva Vintage Sports and Puyat Sports with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority under Chair Felicito C. Payumo as host.

Mika Immonen, the 2001 World Pool champion, will try to avenge his sudden-death, one rack playoff loss to Efren "Bata" Reyes in the finals of the winner-take-all $50,000 "Challenge of Champions" in Connecticut recently.

For his part, US Open Champion Corey Deuel will try to settle an old score with Francisco "Django" Bustamante, his tormentor in the Manila World 9-Ball Challenge last May.

Reyes and Bustamante are determined to stand their ground against the invaders.

The hometown crowd will surely help them pull through.

Under the format, the four masters will play a single round robin with each match a best-of-three sets affair, in a race-to-five racks.

At the end of the round robin, No.1 will meet No. 3 and No. 2 will play No. 4 in the semifinals, which will also be a best-of-three affair.

The winners will clash in the best-of-five finals. The losers will meet for third in a best-of-three series.

Immonen arrived on Wednesday in order to "get a feel of the playing conditions and to practice with some of the great local players."

Deuel, the young American sensation, is scheduled to arrive on Sept. 16.

Said Immonen: "I didn't play well in Manila the last time, but this time around, it's going to be very different. Corey and I are presently playing well and Efren and Django had better watch out."

SPORTSWATCH

Webber pleads innocent

DETROIT — NBA All-Star Chris Webber pleaded innocent to charges of obstructing justice and lying to a grand jury about his dealings with a University of Michigan booster. The booster, retired autoworker Ed Martin, says he lent Webber $280,000 while the basketball star played in high school and at Michigan. Webber has denied receiving large amounts of money from Martin. The 29-year-old Webber was a member of the "Fab Five" in the early 1990s, when the Wolverines went to two NCAA title games. He is starting the second year of a seven-year, $123 million contract with the Sacramento Kings. Webber spoke only once at Wednesday's hearing, saying "yes" when the judge asked if he understood the charges. His lawyer, Steven Fishman of Detroit, said his client pleaded innocent. **AP**

Shaq recovering from toe surgery

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles Lakers superstar centre Shaquille O'Neal could miss the beginning of the upcoming season while recovering from toe surgery. O'Neal had bone spurs removed from a joint in his arthritic right big toe in a procedure performed by Dr. Robert Mohr at the UCLA Outpatient Surgery Center. "We anticipate an uneventful recovery in about six to eight weeks," Mohr said. Training camp for the three-time defending NBA champions opens Oct. 1. The Lakers begin the regular season Oct. 29 against the San Antonio Spurs. O'Neal has won the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player award in each of the last three seasons as the Lakers became just the fifth team in NBA history to win three straight championships. **AFP**

War Emblem sold for $17M

NEW YORK—Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner War Emblem was sold for $17 million on Wednesday, and plans called for the 3-year-old colt to run in the Breeders' Cup Classic before retiring to stud in Japan. The deal was completed in Lexington, Kentucky, where Katsumi Yoshida of Shadai Stallion Station was attending the Keeneland September yearling sale, according to Web site reports by The Bloodhorse and the Thoroughbred Times. War Emblem, bred by Russell Reineman and purchased for $900,000 by the late Saudi Prince Ahmed bin Salman a few weeks before the Derby, finished eighth after stumbling out of the gate in the Belmont Stakes in his bid to become racing's first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed in 1978. Trained by Bob Baffert, War Emblem is preparing in California for what probably will be the final race of his career. The Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships are Oct. 26 at Arlington Park. **AP**

US volleybelles stun Cuba

BERLIN—The United States beat reigning champion and tournament favorite Cuba in the quarterfinals of the women's world volleyball championships on Wednesday.

The US won, 3-0 (25-22, 25-15, 25-21), to oust the winner of the last three Olympic Games and thereby put an end to Cuba's dominance.

It is the first time in 20 years that Cuba has failed to reach the last four.

The Americans now meet Russia, which beat Bulgaria, 3-0, and Italy, 3-0 conqueror of South Korea, faces China.

The Chinese downed Brazil, 3-2, in Friday's semifinals. *AFP*

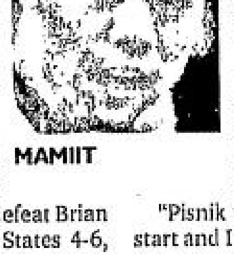
Mamiit shocks Schalken in Brazil

COSTA DO SAUIPE, Brazil — Cecil Mamiit, a Filipino-American now carrying the colors of the United States, stunned US Open semifinalist Sjeng Schalken, 6-3, 7-6 (6), on Wednesday in the second round of the $1.2-million Brasil Open.

Mamiit, 128th in the ATP rankings, used a strong serve and an unflappable baseline game to upset Schalken, the tournament's No. 2 seed.

Mamiit served up eight aces, compared with just one by the 17th-ranked Dutchman.

"I didn't expect this victory," Mamiit said. "I kept winning points and gaining confidence as the game went on."


MAMIIT

Mamiit took the court with a US flag pin on his shirt in memory of the victims of the World Trade Center tragedy and was loudly applauded by the crowd at this northeastern coastal resort.

In other games, No. 7 seed Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia came from behind to defeat Brian Vahaly of the United States 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, and No. 5 seed Agustin Calleri of Argentina downed Vincent Spadea of the United States 7-6 (1), 7-5.

In women's play, No. 2 seed Monica Seles made her debut with a 7-5, 6-1 win over Tina Pisnik of Slovenia to advance to the quarterfinals.

Seles, fifth in the ATP ranking, came back from a 3-5 deficit in the first set to overtake the 46th-ranked Pisnik in a match interrupted by rain.

"Pisnik was playing well at the start and I took a while to get into the game," Seles said. "It was a good debut."

Seles now faces surprising Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia, who upset No. 5 seed Iva Majoli of Croatia 6-2, 6-3.

Meanwhile, No. 1 seed Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia cruised 7-6 (3), 6-4 over Myriam Casanova of Switzerland. Third-seeded Anastasia Myskina of Russia downed Sunitha Rao of the United States 6-2, 6-2.

In other second-round matches, Amanda Coetzer of South Africa defeated No. 7 seed Nathalie Dechy of France 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; No. 8 seed Elena Daniilidou of Greece beat Emilie Loit of France 4-6, 6-2, 7-5; and Maja Matevzic of Croatia downed Cristina Torrens-Valero of Spain 4-6, 6-4, 6-1. *AP*

RACING TIPS

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Race 1--1. Rama 2. Salamat 3. Native Prince 4. Agao Heats 5. Summit Force
Race 2--1. Always on D Go 2. Silver Print 3. Wan Star
Race 3--1. Velocity 2. High Pocket 3. Desert Deb 4. Aya's Dream
Race 4--1. Hot Number 2. Andee's Ace 3. Beat D Heat 4. Diskarte 5. Free Again
Race 5--1. Destroyer 2. Jackpot 3. Assunta de Rio 4. King Ram
Race 6--1. Show Affection 2. Rising Fast 3. Cycloneferros 4. Full Blast 5. Tawagin Mo Na
Race 7--1. Grand Dragon 2. Profit Margin 3. Nevada Rhum 4. Marginal Note 5. Steel Wheel
Race 8--1. Kiss Me Quick 2. Dynamite Jack 3. Green Leaves 4. Witch Craft
Race 9--1. American Beauty 2. Epic Energy 3. Flirt 4. Run Doding Fly 5. Something Silver 6. King Cobra

PCU, Benilde dispute right to fight San Sebastian in NCAA finals

GAMES TODAY *(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)*
2 p.m.—Mapua vs Letran (jrs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs St. Benilde (srs)

PHILIPPINE Christian University gained psychological advantage when it wielded the upset axe on College of St. Benilde and forced a rubbermatch in the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament the other day.

The Dolphins hope to capitalize on that edge and finish off the Blazers today at 4 p.m. to arrange a best-of-three title series against defending champion San Sebastian College.

The Stags booted the Jose Rizal University Heavy Bombers out of the semifinals and cleared the path to another Finals' appearance for the third straight year.

The Blazers, who finished second to the Stags in the eight-team eliminations, possessed a twice-to-beat edge going to the semifinal, but yielded a 95-93 overtime loss to the Dolphins on Wednesday.

Billed as pre-tournament favorites, the Blazers are now in trouble of reneging on their promise: a championship this year. *June Navarro*

Lucky 13 proves true for Archers

GAMES TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m.—FEU vs Adamson
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle

By Dennis U. Eroa

MIKE Cortez put up another virtuoso yesterday performance as La Salle escaped with a 79-78 squeaker over University of the Philippines, moving to within a win of duplicating a venerable record in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

The six-footer Cortez shone brightest in a game of in-your-face basketball, silencing the Fighting Maroons by scoring nine big points in the final 1:27 of play which powered the Archers to their 13th straight win.

La Salle goes for the rare sweep, which was last achieved by University of Santo Tomas in 1993, against archrival Ateneo at the Big Dome tomorrow. A sweep will automatically power the five-peat seeking Archers to the best-of-three finals, leaving the Eagles, the Tigers and the University of the East Warriors in a wild chase for the second finals slot.

Relieved by the win, coach Franz Pumaren exchanged jokes with sportswriters during the post-game interview, crediting La Salle's domination of the league to its ability to conquer the pressure.

He, however, turned serious when he announced that the Archers are dedicating the season to Olympian and La Salle Hall of Famer Martin Urra Sr. who passed away last night in the San Juan de Dios Hospital due to cancer of the lungs.

Urra, 71, saw action in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and the 1958 Tokyo Asian Games.

"This season is being dedicated to Martin," said Pumaren. "Today, we're lucky to survive UP. This is Lucky 13."

Indeed, the Archers' warm-up before meeting the Eagles appeared headed for disaster. La Salle's offense went berserk and it took the leadership of Cortez to bring the Archers back to life.

Fearless Toti Almeda repeatedly shamed La Salle's shaky defense, and his running righthander capped an explosive night as UP took a 72-71 lead.

But the Maroons had no answer to Cortez's brilliance in the endgame.

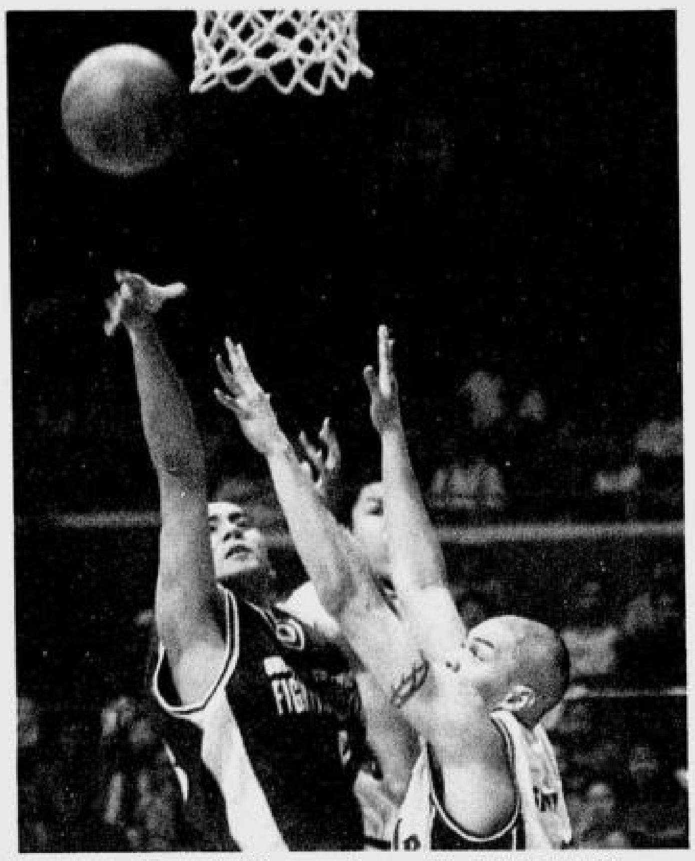
In the second game, UST completed the Final Four cast by ousting Far Eastern University, 62-58.

Scores:

LA SALLE 79–Cortez 20, Cardona 16, Sharma 11, Manalo 11, Cabatu 9, Ramos 6, Sta. Maria 3, Wilson 2, Yeo 1, Vainio 0, Tang 0.

UP 78–Almeda 25, Bravo 17, Nunag 13, Santos 12, Cervantes 4, Ibanes 4, reyes 3, Celo 0, Arnaiz 0.

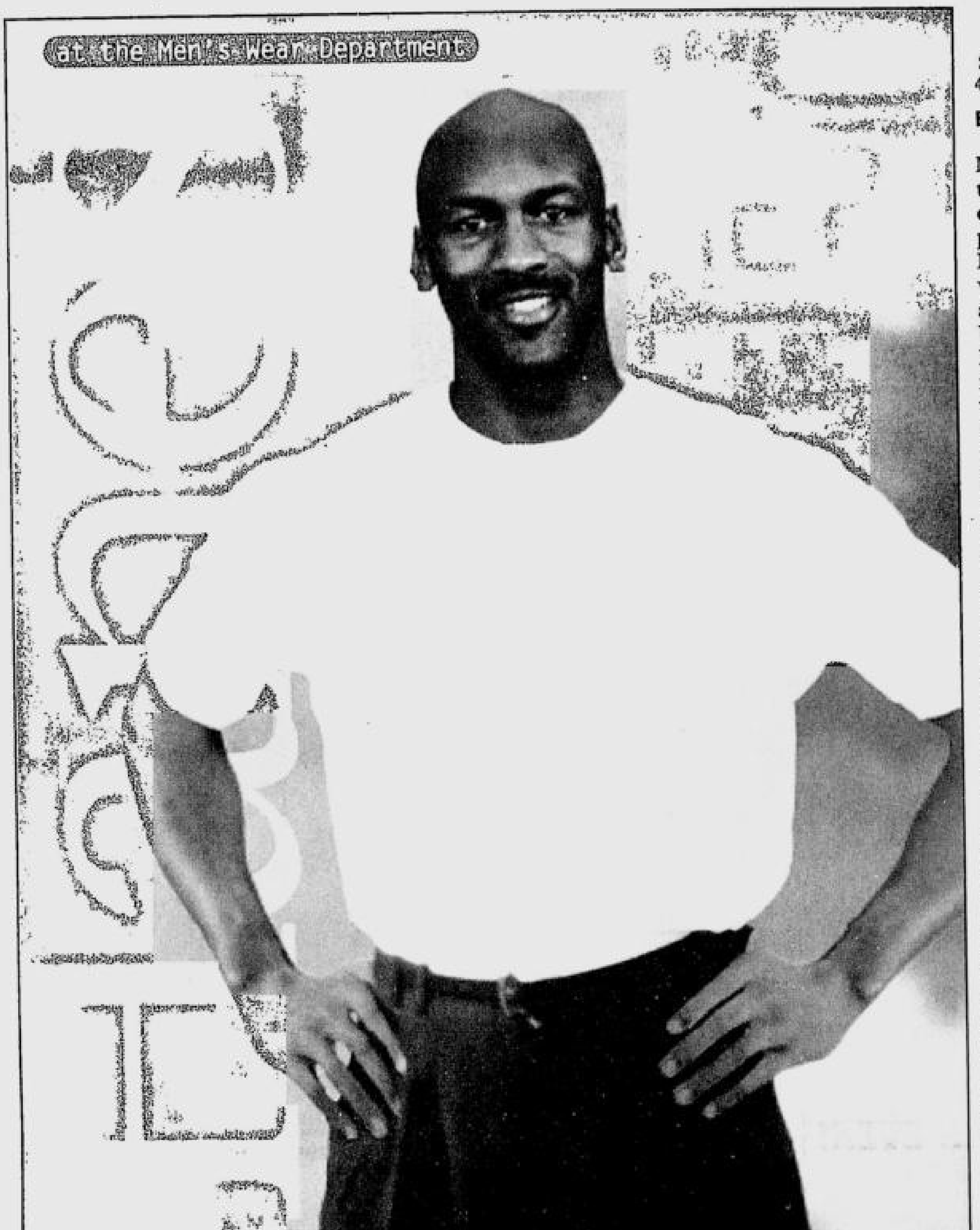
Quarters: 14-17, 37-36, 58-53, 79-78



UP's Xavier Nunag (left) lets go a floater off La Salle's Carlo Sharma and partly hidden Willy Wilson during their UAAP game yesterday. La Salle won, 79-78. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1994, Joey Almeda clocked 1:00.45 to sweep the ninth leg of the Shell Helix Slalom Run-off II at the Philcite. Also today in 1996, Angelo Constantino rolled 793 pinfalls to top the 7th SJBA-Q Shandy International Open Championships at the SM Megamall Center.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Bayron 4 strokes up on Koreans

FORMER national player Jay Bayron submitted another two-over-par 73 and surged ahead by four strokes over Dave Hernandez and two Korean youngsters after Wednesday's second round of the inaugural Riviera Amateur Championship at the all-weather Langer course of the Riviera Golf Club in Silang, Cavite.

As his first round co-leader Jun Bernis faded, Bayron kept his steady form despite the rains to finish 36 holes at 146, four over par at the Langer course where Gerald Rosales won the Philippine Open two years ago.

Hernandez, winner of the Mt. Malarayat Mid-Amateur last month, boosted his bid for a second straight major plum by moving up to second place in the company of young Koreans Lee Seong Ki and Su Woo Ram.

Hernandez shot a 74 which was only bettered by Bayron, Lee carded a 75 and Suh shot a 76.

Dennis Reyes and Antonio del Rosario, both members of Riviera, took the first two titles up for grabs by topping the 36-hole Class B and Class C competitions, respectively, of the event sponsored by San Miguel Corp., adidas/Taylormade and Orica Explosives Phils. Inc.

Reyes scored an 81 but it was enough to give him a runaway nine-stroke win over Kenji Matsumoto (82) and Michael Mendoza (85) with a 158 aggregate.

Del Rosario assembled an 86 for a 180 aggregate to edge Mark Reyes and Nelson Ng by a stroke. Reyes scored an 87 and Ng a 94 for similar 181 totals.

Two favorites in the championship class, Tommy Manotoc and Iggy Clavecilla were far off the pace after similar 80s. Manotoc was at 155, Clavecilla at 158.

The Rivera Amateur is part of the Club's two-major offering, the other being the National Pro-Am sponsored by UBIX set this coming November.

ASIAN GAMES

Cheerleaders known today

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WHEN THE Philippine team members start competing in the 14th Asian Games, they won't just rely on a handful of fellow teammates to goad them on to win that gold medal.

Instead, some 35 cheerleaders from several colleges will be on hand to cheer them, do acrobatics and some singing to boost the morale of the athletes.

The Busan trip is the top prize in the cheerleading competitions slated today, coinciding with the pep rally for the 218 Busan-bound athletes, at the Philsports.

The winning school will get P100,000, second placer P75,000 and third placer P50,000 plus a Samsung wide screen television. Fourth to seventh placers get P10,000 each.

This marks the first time the Philippines will be sending a cheering squad, whose plane fare and accommodation will be shouldered by Samsung Philippines, the country's Asiad sponsor.

"We want full-blast cheering for the Philippine team because when I was still an athlete, the crowd support could really perk you up and push you to the limit," said Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain.

Buhain yesterday said the eight competing schools will take their turns cheering for the national team in today's pep rally where a host of judges coming from the Gymnastics Association of the Philippines determine the winner.

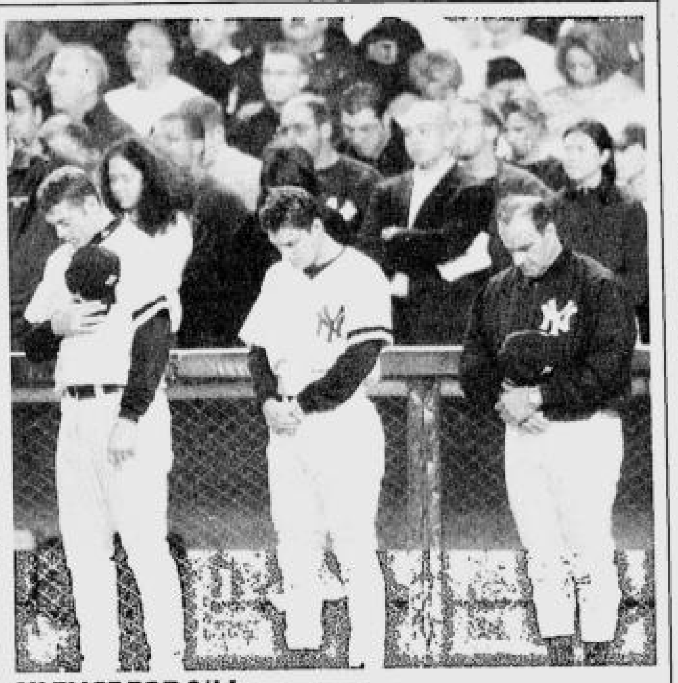
Forest Hills golf stakes Toyota

A BRAND-NEW Toyota Corolla, a complete Wilson golf set, P100,000 from Turf Co., and a membership share at the Makati Golf Club are up for grabs as the "2002 Chairman's Cup" unfolds today at the Challenging par-71 championship golf course of Forest Hills Golf and Country Club in Antipolo City.

Close to 400 members, guests and VIPs will compete for top championship honors and a total of P1 million worth of attractive prizes, trophies and giveaways in the annual tournament held in honor of club chair lawyer Ferdinand T. Santos.

"With all the excellent preparations being done by the club, I am sure that the players will enjoy and have a grand time during the tournament," Santos said.

The major sponsors of three-day golfest are Golforce Inc., Sports Specialist and MRT Dev. Co. Other sponsors are Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Turf Co., Wilson, Emeritus Security Agency, Pisanti, Bank of Commerce and Bagaberde Bar & Grill. The Toyota Corolla is courtesy of Toyota Marikina.



SILENCE FOR 9/11
New York Yankees' manager Joe Torre (right), third baseman Robin Ventura (center) and Drew Henson pause for a moment of silence at 9:11 p.m. yesterday to commemorate the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks one year ago, during the fifth inning at Yankee Stadium in New York. The Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles, 5-4. AFP

Coseteng guns for big win

CROWD favorite and Caltex Havoline-Autoplus lead driver Jody Coseteng guns for a big win in the Philippine National Touring Car Championship stages Rounds 9 and 10 this weekend at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Coseteng, also backed up by Red Horse, will try to get his winning ways back to regain his lofty standing as frontrunner.

After four rounds, he still keeps solo leadership with 102 points. His two toughest rivals–Vincent Floirendo and Jojo Silverio–are just close behind with 72 and 61 points, respectively.

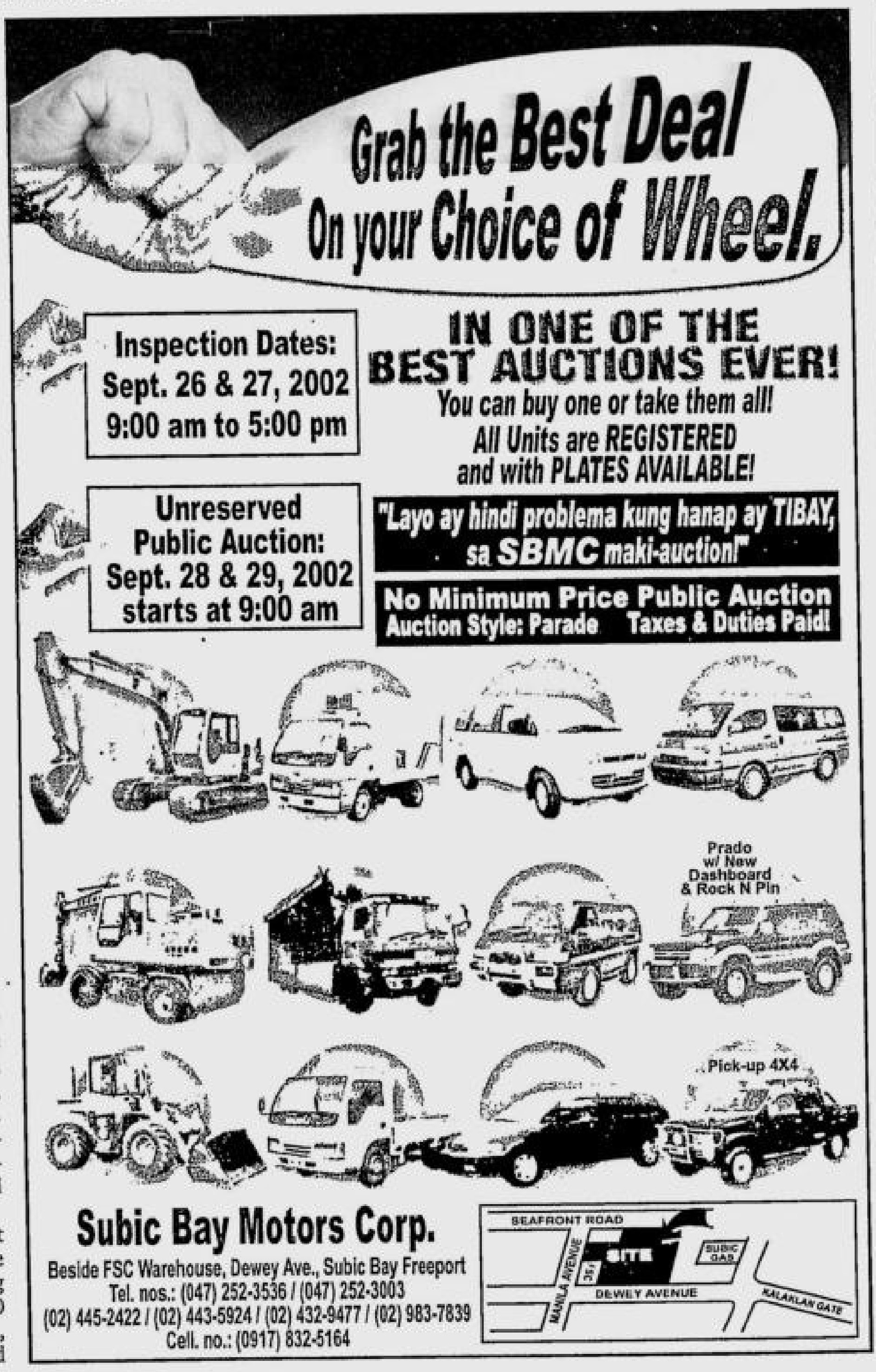
Macasaet leads derbyists

A FULL-house crowd is expected at the Pasay City Cockpit tonight when the special 4-stag derby gets under way at 7 p.m. featuring more than 60 fights. Derby sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Sagupaan Mite Free.

Among those invited by derby host and PCC manager Eric de la Rosa are Jake Macasaet, Tony Lasala, Benjie Lim, lawyer Romero Yu, Danny Ty, Biboy Enriquez, Muroy Dolorico, Ramon Mansenares, Jet Fernando, Vic Yu, Blandy Tolentino, Pol Estrellado, Richard Bates, Pete Rodriguez, former ambassador Danding Cojuangco, Pepito Ngo, Mayor Nene Aguilar and Gerry Ramos.

At stake is a cash prize of P300,000 while entry fee is P10,000. Submission of weights is today, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and interested parties may call 843-1890, 816-6750 and 843-1746.

Also slated at Pasay Cockpit are three more 4-stag events on Sept. 20 (James Uy and ASF), Sept. 27 (PCCA) and Oct. 4 (Benjie Lim).



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BIKE FOR LIFE

Cancer Warriors climb Naguilian: Receives warm welcome
James urges government to include cancer drugs in priority list of drugs for parallel importation

A slight drizzle accompanied James Auste and the Bike for Life team as they pedalled courageously through the unknown terrain of Naguilian. Undaunted by the chilly mountain air, the slippery roads and the steep climbs, the team of 7 males and 3 females, relentlessly pushed their way through the 48 kilometer uphill stretch from San Fernando, La Union to Baguio. Halfway up and upon entering the Baguio side, a combined team of 20 bikers led by Henry Padilla of the Baguio Northwall Bikers and Ryan Maurera of the Baguio Benguet Bicycling Group, provided vital reinforcements.

The Cancer Warriors parked their bikes in Burnham Park where they were welcomed by a multi-sectoral group of supporters led by management and key staff of its founding partner, PLDT. The PLDT team was headed by Mr Raul Alvarez (VP Marketing) and Mr. Mar Marzan (Baguio Exchange Manager). Also on hand were regional officers of the Philippine Information Agency, members of the local media, representatives of UCCP Baguio and a team from the Cordillera Association of Regional Executives (CARE) led by its President, Regional Director Au Quiray of the Commission on Population. A press briefing and interview followed.

In the mid-afternoon, a forum on cancer awareness was hosted by St Louis University College of Nursing, through the efforts of Professor Ludivina Ramos. An overflow audience of 360, composed of junior and senior nursing students and hospital staff from St Louis University, government employees representing 25 government offices and local NGO members of CORD attended the forum. Aside from James, forum speakers included Melissa Domingo, daugher of a cancer survivor and now local volunteer assisting poor cancer patients in Baguio General Hospital, Samia Abraham-Enrage, a three-time cancer survivor and Dr Amelia Mapagu, a UNESCO consultant and founder President of MAPS (Medical Assistance for the Poor) who served as technical resource.

Melissa shared her challenging but fulfilling experience as a caregiver and volunteer. She dwelled on the "gift of closeness" that cancer can bring to a family. On the other hand, Samia who traveled all the way to Baguio from Tuguegarao, shared her trials and trumph over three types of cancer. She presented a living embodiment of how vigilance and a positive outlook can make a difference. Dr Mapagu gave an enlighening overview of cancer and its predisposing factors/ major causes.

James inspired the audience and moved some to tears as well as laughter as he shared his own journey and the victorious stories of children fighting cancer. He stressed that the majority of deaths among children with cancer is not a result of the illness itself but the inability of patients to get timely and appropriate treatment and care. He also pointed out that the survival rates of children with cancer increase remarkably once the cancer is diagnosed early and treated immediately. Sadly, cancer treatment drugs is not in the governments priority list of drugs for parallel importation. He urged the group to join the voice of Cancer Warriors and the families of children with cancer in urging the government to include cancer drugs in its priority list. James energized the crowded room with the fire of his passion as he committed to keep on fighting and championing the cause of poor kids battling cancer. He challenged the group to do whatever they can to help kids beat cancer and lead healthy, happy lives.

SEPT 13

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INQUIRER

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

GOLF: PGA Bell Canadian Open Highlights at 7:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Fred Meyer Golf Challenge at 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Inside the PGA Tour at 11 a.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

This is the PGA Tour at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

PGA Europro Tour 2002 Highlights at 9:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

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Red Bull expels Lang

Thunder to parade new import versus Talk N Text tonight

By Roy Luarca

FOR Batang Red Bull, nobody is indispensable. Not even 2001 best import awardee Tony Lang.

Putting premium on commitment, dedication and performance, the Batang Red Bull management has decided to sack Lang, unmindful of repercussions on the Thunder's title bid.

It will be noted that Lang scored only 14 points in Game 1, resulting in a Red Bull defeat that humiliated the heavily favored Thunder.

Although Lang came back with all guns ablaze (37 points) in Game 2 to help Red Bull equalize the best-of-seven playoffs at 1-1, doubts as to Lang's readiness to go all out lingered in management's mind.

Game 3 in which Red Bull lost anew to Talk N Text was the final blow that sealed Lang's departure from the league.

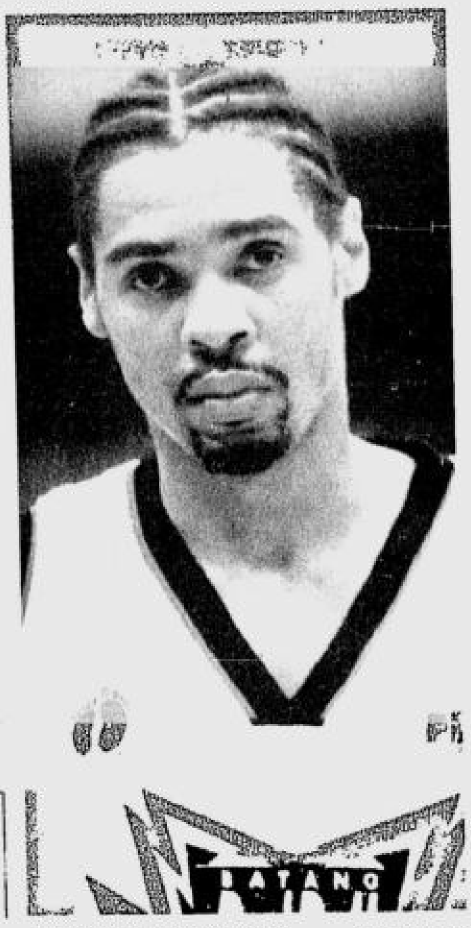
Below is the management's candid explanation of the reasons and circumstances that led to Lang's unceremonious exit from the PBA.

"Since Batang Red Bull joined the PBA two years ago, management has always strived to make the team come up with the highest level of performance for the interests of the public. That's the reason Batang Red Bull won the PBA Commissioner's Cup crown last year in only its fifth conference appearance.

"Looking forward to another highly successful stint this year, Batang Red Bull management has formed what experts consider another championship team by bringing back last year's PBA Best Import Tony Lang and making him team up with another equally strong import, Julius Nwosu. Batang Red Bull played true to form, topping the elimination round and, once again, advancing to the Finals by knocking out crowd favorite San Miguel Beer in four games.

"Batang Red Bull was tabbed the heavy favorite over Talk N Text in the best-of-seven Finals. But at this stage of the series, Red Bull is trailing Talk N Text. Red Bull management feels that Tony Lang's performance is below its expectations and that he can no longer work harmoniously with the team's coaching staff.

"Although it acknowledges the difficulty of replacing imports at this late stage of the conference, management feels it has no alternative if it expects to live up to its commitment to the PBA and the paying fans. It is therefore with regret that Red Bull management has decided to fly in Sean Lampley to replace Tony Lang for the remainder of the championship series."



LANG: What went wrong? ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

TNT seeks crucial 3-1 margin

GAME TODAY *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
7:30 p.m.--Red Bull vs Talk N Text

Game 1–Talk N Text d. Red Bull, 102-100
Game 2–Red Bull d. Talk N Text, 96-86
Game 3–Talk N Text d. Red Bull, 80-71

By June Navarro

BATANG Red Bull's surprise move to send home Tony Lang will be put to the test today when the Thunder try to level the series against Talk N Text.

The crowd at the Cuneta Astrodome will be treated to a new Thunder show when Red Bull lets loose Sean Lampley in the 7:30 p.m. encounter.

Talk N Text, the underdog, leads the series, 2-1, in the best-of-seven playoffs for the PBA Commisioner's Cup.

The Phone Pals are in an unfamiliar plane after scoring an 80-71 victory the other night.

"It's a choice between Lang who is not fit and taking the risk of tapping the services of Lampley who is flying in from a long-haul flight but is 100 percent fit though," said Batang Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao.

The 6-foot-5 Lampley, who had a brief stint for the Thunder in the quarterfinals last conference, will arrive in the country today 'straight from a 16-hour flight from Miami, Florida.

"Jetlag will be a problem for Lampley. But he's fit as he is fresh from a stint in the Miami Heat training camp. And besides, he's more athletic and muscular than Tony," said Guiao.

The last time a team replaced an import in the Finals was in 1996 when Barangay Ginebra pulled import Dennis Rucker out from its roster and installed Fred Cofield during the best-of-seven championship series against Alaska.

Spring Oil makes China cage debut

YUNNAN, China–Reigning Philippine amateur basketball champion Spring Cooking Oil opens its bid in the 2002 Honghe Cup International Basketball Grand Prix today against highly rated Liaoning Hunters Panpan of China at the Geijin gym here.

Romel Adducul, superstar in the defunct MBA, Fil-Am Jeffrey Flowers and talented American Kurt Salesman will banner the Spring Cooking Oil Masters when they meet the tournament's top seeded team after the 3 p.m. opening ceremony.

Missing from the Spring lineup is seven-time PBA Best Import Bobby Parks, who underwent an operation last Saturday after fracturing his knee in a collision with Dondon Hontiveros during Spring's final tuneup match with the Asian Games-bound national team at the Moro Lorenz gym.

"He's a big loss to the team," said Spring team owner and national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla. "But the boys have promised to step up and win (the tourney) for him."

The other members of coach Tito Palma's Spring squad are Mar Reyes, Carlo Espiritu, Braulio Lim, Joel Co, Mike Buenda, Allan de Castro, Wowie Ybañez, Rodel Manuel and Efren Garcia.

Spring plays China's Shandong Jinsidong team in its second match at 8 p.m. tomorrow.

The other teams in the prestigious cagefest, all bracketed in Group A, are Australia's Sydney Kings, Hong Kong's Pacific Long Distance Call and China's Jinlin North East Tigers.

This is the second international stint for Spring Cooking Oil. Early this year, Spring performed impressively in the ABC Champions' Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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'MMDA drive violates EO'

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Christian V. Esguerra

A GRAVE abuse of authority.

This was how Caloocan City Councilor and Bayan Muna party secretary general Nathanael Santiago described Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando's campaign against street vendors.

Santiago, who yesterday marched with about 1,000 displaced vendors to Mendiola, said Fernando had violated an executive order issued by former President Fidel Ramos requiring authorities to provide an alternative work site before they evict vendors.

"This is like in the case of the urban poor, whose shanties should not be demolished without a relocation site," Santiago said. "The involuntary evictions of sidewalk vendors from their workplace and the 30-day deadline Fernando had set violate EO 452. Bayani's policy is illegal, unjust, and inhuman."

Santiago said the Ramos EO, signed on Oct. 24, 1997, provides the guidelines "that will ensure the security of registered vendors in the workplace."

The order mandates authorities to establish a system of registration and issuance of permit

MMDA/A26

Suspects getting special treatment

By Christian V. Esguerra

JAIL officers in Pasay City are under fire for allegedly giving special treatment to the policemen accused of murdering the brother of former actress Marisa Del Mar.

In a letter, Presidential Adviser for Political Affairs Jose Rufino yesterday asked Interior Secretary Jose Lina to investigate the city's jail officers for being "grossly remiss of their duties."

To determine if the accused were being given special treatment, Del Mar and her family last Wednesday arranged for the suspects' movements to be recorded on video when the latter were to attend another hearing in Pasig.

Rufino wrote Lina after Del Mar (Marissa Magsino in real life) sought his assistance last week over the jail officers' alleged "blatant violation" of the rules on detainees.

SPO2 Romeo Isidro, PO3 Jesus Bongon Jr.,

SUSPECTS/A26

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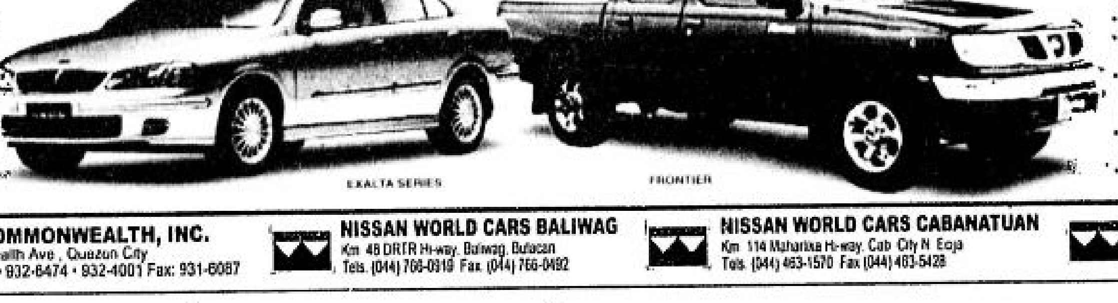

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NISSAN

Police to make sure Seigle will face raps

By Christian V. Esguerra

SEIGLE FILEPHOTO

BASKETBALL star Andy Seigle, accused with five companions of beating up two club bouncers in Makati last Sunday, is not yet off the hook.

Makati police yesterday said they would still press criminal charges against Seigle even if the club owner had cleared him.

PO2 Juancho Ibis said he would file today physical injury charges before the city prosecutor's office against the 6-foot-9 Seigle and the five other men based on the complaint of bouncers Bennilito Benitez and Miguel Honor.

"The club owner is not the complainant so why would I not file the charges against Seigle and his group?" Ibis told the INQUIRER. "There is an official complaint, there is even a medical report, so there's no reason for the police not to file a case."

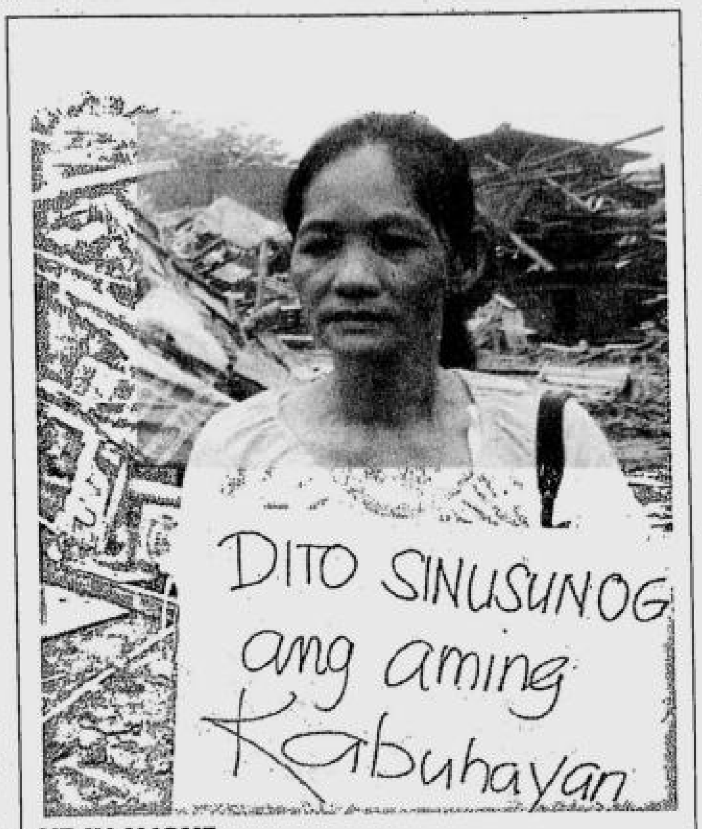
Philip Chua, owner of Club 5 (not Club V as earlier reported) bar and restaurant, had earlier cleared Seigle, saying the player acted only as "pacifier" during the melee in his club. Chua reportedly fired Benitez and Honor for allegedly fabricating charges against Seigle, said to be a regular customer of the club.

But Benitez, 26, said in. his complaint that Seigle grabbed him by the neck as he and Honor were trying to ward off the blows of the player and his group. One of Seigle's companions allegedly twisted Honor's arm and threw him on a table.

The bouncers said Seigle and his companions started the fight after another bouncer called the attention of the basketball player's group for supposedly annoying female customers on the dance floor.

Medical certificates from the Ospital ng Makati, signed by Dr. Ferdinand Maranan and dated Sept. 13, showed Benitez sustained "contusion and hematoma" and Honor "tenderness and limitation of motion."

Louie Ysmael earlier called up the INQUIRER to point out that the incident involving Seigle and his companions happened in Club 5 in San Lorenzo Village and not in V Bar and Bistro (formerly Venezia) in Glorietta 2.



UP IN SMOKE
This woman was part of the vendors' group that earlier this week stormed the dump in Manggahan, Pasig City, where Metro Manila Development Authority workers dump goods seized from her and the other illegal sidewalk vendors. (Related story on page A25). VAL HANDUMON

Man gets 17 years for no-show in court

By Agnes E. Donato

FOR NOT showing up yesterday at the trial of his case, Nerias Cobarubbias was sentenced to a prison term of at least 17 years for robbing a motorcycle last year.

Judge Jose Catral Mendoza of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court found Cobarubbias guilty of car theft.

In his four-page decision, Judge Mendoza ruled in favor of complainant Rodel Serrano, whose evidence and testimony went undisputed after Cobarubbias failed to attend any hearing of his case after his arraignment.

"The accused could have refuted the evidence of the prosecution but he opted not to," the judge said. "Thus the evidence of the prosecution remains undisputed." Serrano, a Meralco inspector was on his way to work on June 18, 2001 on board his Mitsukoshi motorcycle when Cobarubbias and another man driving a white sedan blocked his path on A. Bonifacio Street in Quezon City and proceeded to take his vehicle, court records showed.

The next day, policemen arrested Cobarubbias on Quirino Highway for using a motorcycle with fake registration plates.

On July 23, Cobarubbias' lawyer himself moved that the case be submitted for decision, saying that he could not present any evidence to defend his client because the latter had not been showing up.

QC matron robbed of P2.5M

POLICEMEN believe that the P2.5-million robbery in a posh residence in Quezon City was an inside job.

Norma Mendoza, 69, of 11 Titan St., Acropolis, Libis, Quezon City, told Central Police District lawmen that she discovered the robbery after she went to her basement to look for some documents at around 2 p.m. Wednesday.

She said when she went up the master's bedroom, she found that over P2.5 million in cash and jewelry were missing.

Police have taken into custody Mendoza's driver Renan Jabay, whom Mendoza accused as the one responsible.

Police learned that Jabay and his son were the only ones inside the house with Mendoza at that time. Jabay has been Mendoza's driver for more than a year now.

Police are now holding Jabay in custody. *Alcuin Papa*

2 Quezon City men's fight ends in bloodbath for their fathers

By Alcuin Papa

A FISTFIGHT between two men turned into a bloodbath for their fathers in Quezon City on Wednesday. One father stabbed the other dead, police said.

Killed was Pablo Macabagdal, 64, a retired employee and resident of Road 20, Project 8, police said. Macabagdal died after receiving treatment for stab wounds to the chest at the Quezon City General Hospital.

The stabbing suspect, Leopoldo Resbo, 64, of Road 25, Project 8, was also wounded.

PO1 Romel Merino of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit said the unidentified sons of Macabagdal and Resbo had figured in a fistfight Wednesday night at the corner of Road 25 and Shorthorn Street.

The elder Macabagdal managed to break up the fight but the elder Resbo stabbed him.

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Cops close to cracking Antipolo bank heist

ANTIPOLO City policemen now have composite sketches of three of seven men who robbed a bank in the city on Wednesday.

Supt. Jose Dayco, chief of the Antipolo City police, yesterday said that the police sketches of the three suspects were based on the description of the suspected-driver of the getaway vehicle, who was arrested hours after the bank robbery.

The driver, whose identity has been withheld, was arrested the other day when policemen conducted pursuit and follow-up operations.

The gang hit the Security Bank branch in Barangay Masinag, Antipolo City at around 8:20 a.m., and fled with an estimated P1.5 million (not P10 million as earlier reported).

The robbery occurred just as President Macapagal-Arroyo made a surprise visit to a warehouse where smuggled rice was being stored.

The still unidentified suspects were on board an unmarked white Honda Civic and were wearing jackets and knapsacks when they hit the bank, records showed. They were said to be armed with .38-caliber and .45-caliber pistols.

Based on the investigation of the police, the suspects timed the robbery with the arrival of the bank employees who were reporting for work.

Alcuin Papa

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, September 13, 2002
23nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-27
Gospel: Lk 6:39-42

Jesus offered this example, "Can a blind person lead another blind person? Surely both will fall into a ditch. A disciple is not above the master; but when fully trained, he will be like the master. So why do you pay attention to the speck in your brother's eye while you have a log in your eye and are not conscious of it? How can you say to your neighbor: 'Friend, let me take this speck out of your eye,' when you can't remove the log in your own? You hypocrite! First remove the log from your own eye and then you will see clearly enough to remove the speck from your neighbor's eye."

Commentary

All of us are somehow blind. It is so difficult to always see clearly! Any kind of reality is made up of flight and shade. Sometimes it's difficult to find the way. Sometimes we get lost. We know well our personal stories. What is striking is that we sometimes like to be the masters of light. It seems that we could penetrate with our eyes the darkness surrounding others, and so we could teach them the right way. We could use a little bit more of humility to recognise that we are all traveling the same road, that we are searching with our brothers and sisters the same Light, and that our tiny flashlight is not the Light.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Execution of a judgment—As a general rule, the execution of a judgment should not be had until and unless the judgment has become final and executory. I.e., the period of appeal has lapsed without an appeal having been taken, or appeal having been taken, the appeal has been resolved and the records of the case have been returned to the court of origin, in which event, execution ' 'shall issue as a matter of right." Execution pending appeal in accordance with Section 2 of Rule 39 of the Rules of Court is, therefore, the exception. The requisites for the grant of a motion for execution pending appeal are: (a) there must be a motion by the prevailing party with notice to the adverse party; (b) there must be a good reason for execution pending appeal; and (c) the good reason must be stated in the special order. Being an exception to the general rule, the requisites of execution pending appeal must, therefore, be strictly construed. Thus, anent the requisite that there must be good reason justifying the execution of the judgment pending appeal, the Court has consistently held that such good reason must constitute superior circumstances demanding urgency which will outweigh the injury or damage should the losing party secure a reversal of the judgment. Beyond the guideline set by jurisprudence, however, statute does not determine, enumerate, or give examples of what may be considered good reasons to justify execution pending appeal. [Citations omitted.] [Justice De Leon Jr., Second Division, Fortune Guarantee and Insurance Corp. v. Court of Appeals, G. R. No. 110701, March 12, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

MMDA . . .

From page A25

to vendors to protect their rights and the interests of consumers and the general public.

It says the city and the municipality, in consultation with vendors, the affected community and other sector or groups, shall identify and designate viable workplaces prior to the eviction of vendors.

"It seems Mr. Fernando is not aware that EO 452 and its IRR are now in force and have the able effect of law unless recalled by the President or nullified by the court," Santiago said. "If he is aware (of it), he is blatantly disregarding and consciously violating the order."

He said it is the local government unit, and not the MMDA, that has the authority to evict vendors.

President Macapagal-Arroyo also has not recalled Ramos' order, Santiago noted.

The vendors burned an effigy of the President and Fernando during the Mendiola rally.

The militant Sanlakas yesterday also backed Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco, who has been accused of riding on the controversy surrounding the campaign against illegal vendors.

Wilson Fortaleza, Sanlakas president, slammed Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad for asking Syjuco to stay out of the issue.

Trinidad and other Metro Manila mayors "prefer to rebuke a 'politician' in the person of Syjuco for riding on the issue, yet they do not see the 'politicians' in themselves," Fortaleza said in a statement.

The newly formed Metro Manila Vendors Association (MMVA), led by Sanlakas, found an ally in Syjuco who vowed to call for an investigation of Fernado's drive against illegal vendors.

Syjuco had said that Fernando should not impose an absolute campaign to drive away ambulant vendors.

Suspects . . .

From page A25

PO1 Ricardo Eusebio, Jojit George Contreras, Remegio Almonte and Robert Sy have been accused before a Pasay regional trial court of the murder of SPO1 Jaime Magsino in 1999. They were also charged before a Pasig court for allegedly kidnapping Rogelio Amihan, a key witness of the prosecution.

Except for Sy and Almonte, the rest of the accused are detained in Pasay.

The INQUIRER also learned that Eusebio remains in active service though he has been in jail for nearly two years now.

Rufino said in his letter that "on several occasions (the four detainees) were seen out of their cell . . . accompanied by a single guard" after a hearing in Pasig on Aug. 20.

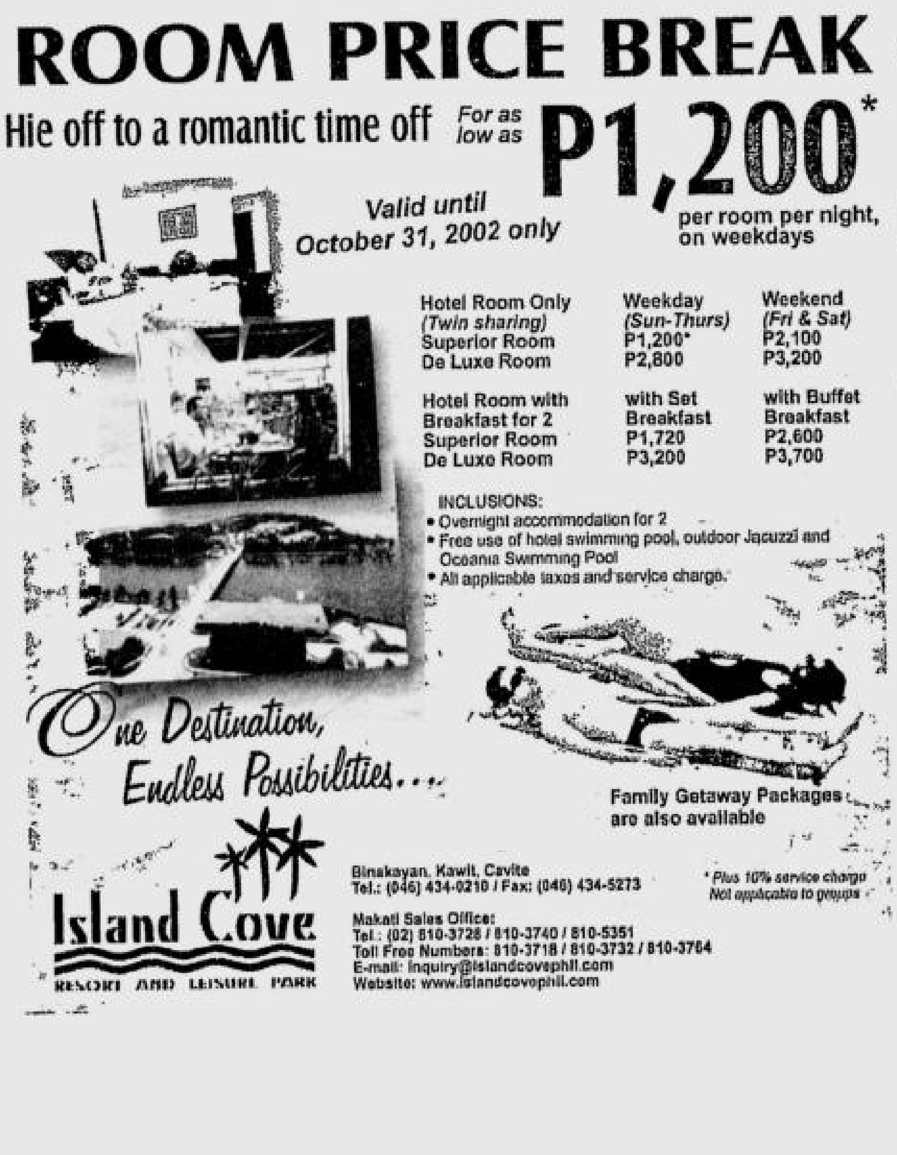
Del Mar's brother Christopher said the accused did not return to the Pasay city jail but instead roamed the Multinational Village in Parañaque.

"I suspect these people are no longer detained in Pasay," Del Mar told the INQUIRER.

Del Mar said video footages showed Isidro and Eusebio arrived at the Pasig court at 1:30 p.m. on board a privately-owned Nissan van accompanied by two jail guards in civilian clothes. She said the accused were not handcuffed.

After the hearing, Isidro, Eusebio, and the prison guards allegedly proceeded to a lawyer's house in Mandaluyong and later went to a market where they boarded a taxicab. The group then went to a restaurant on Jupiter Street in Makati, Del Mar said.

Sensing that they were being followed, Isidro and his group left the restaurant for the Pasay jail where they arrived at about 6 p.m., she said.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7	
8	

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2
3

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8	TRIPLE X
9	GAMITAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
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4	LAMAN
5 (SDDS)	REIGN OF FIRE
6 (DTS)	DIVINE SECRET ...
7 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
8	HIGH RISK

Gotesco Ortigas
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4	LAMAN
5 (SDDS)	REIGN OF FIRE

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2	LAMAN
3	SIMONE

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3	RESERVE
4	LAMAN
5	RESERVE

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2	RESERVE

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6	SIMONE
7	SIGNS

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3 (DOLBY)	REIGN OF FIRE
4	LAMAN

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4	LAMAN

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3	LAMAN

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4	JOLOGS
5	BAKAT

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2	LAMAN
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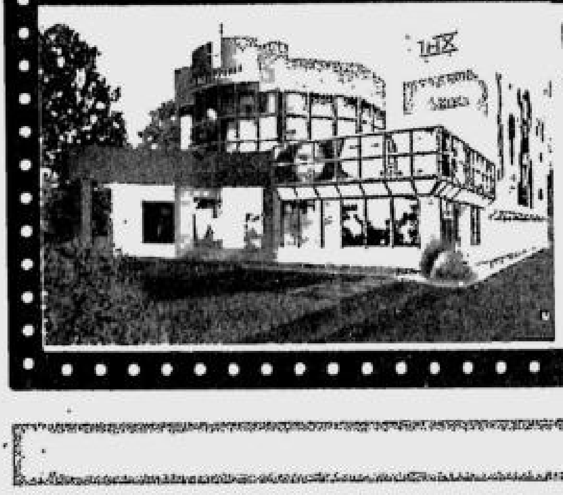

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7	LAMAN
8	SIGNS

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6	JOLOGS
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8	AUSTIN POWERS
9	DIVINE SECRETS...
10	HIGH RISK

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1	SIMONE
2	DIVINE SECRETS
3	HIGH RISK
4	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
5	JOLOGS
6	LAMAN
7	REIGN OF FIRE
8	REVELATION
9	AUSTIN POWERS
10	SIGNS
11	TRIPLE X
12	BAKAT

SM CITY MANILA
5238240

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	SIMONE
3	DIVINE SECRETS...
4	REIGN OF FIRE
5	SIGNS
6	REIGN OF FIRE
7	REVELATION
8	AUSTIN POWERS
9	JOLOGS
10	TRIPLE X
11	HIGH RISK
12	LAMAN

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1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	DIVINE SECRETS...
3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	REIGN OF FIRE
5	SIMONE
6	REVELATION
7	TRIPLE X
8	SIGNS
9	JOLOGS
10	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
11	LAMAN
12	HIGH RISK

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1	REVELATION
2	SIGNS
3	LAMAN
4	JOLOGS
5	DIVINE SECRETS...
6	SIMONE
7	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
8	REIGN OF FIRE

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1	DIVINE SECRETS...
2	REVELATION
3	REIGN OF FIRE
4	SIMONE
5	HIGH RISK
6	AUSTIN POWERS
7	JOLOGS
8	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
9	SIGNS
10	LAMAN

SM CITY CEBU
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1	SWEETEST THING
2	SIGNS
3	DERAILED
4	ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS
5	LAMAN
6	BAKAT
7	JOLOGS
8	THE BOURNE IDENTITY

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
2	CLOSED
3	INSOMNIA
4	LAMAN
5	SIGNS
6	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
7	CLOSED
8	SEX & ZEN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	INSOMNIA
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	JOLOGS
5	DERAILED
6	LAMAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
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1	LAMAN
2	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
3	REIGN OF FIRE
4	JOLOGS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
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1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	LAMAN
3	JOLOGS
4	SIMONE

SM CITY DAVAO
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1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3	SEX & ZEN
4	LAMAN
5	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
6	SIGNS

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7	SIGNS
8	KWENTONG KAYUMANGGI ANIMATION FESTIVAL
9	KWENTONG KAYUMANGGI ANIMATION FESTIVAL (AM)/AUSTIN POWERS 3(PM)
10	REVELATION

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	JOLOGS
4	REVELATION
5	LAMAN
6	SIMONE
7	DIVINE SECRETS...

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1	DIVINE SECRETS...
2	REIGN OF FIRE
3	AUSTIN POWERS 3
4	BOURNE IDENTITY
5	SIMONE
6	LAMAN
7	SIGNS
8	JOLOGS

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1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	DIVINE SECRETS...
3	JOLOGS
4	BOURNE IDENTITY
5	SIGNS
6	SIMONE
7	LAMAN
8	REVELATION

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1	REIGN OF FIRE
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	LAMAN
4	DIVINE SECRETS...
5	JOLOGS
6	SIMONE

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1	SIGNS
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	JOLOGS
4	BOURNE IDENTITY
5	GAMITAN
6	BIGLANG LIKO

Iloilo
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1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	SIGNS
3	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	INSOMIA
5	LAMAN
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Protecting children from potentially harmful chemicals

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SO many commercials are being targeted at young viewers and consumers these days that teacher and parent organizations have been calling for the institution of rules and guidelines to keep excesses in check. Some inputs on this controversial subject from Action for Children's Television:

Children should enjoy greater protection from excesses than adults because they can't distinguish between what's real and what's shown on TV.

There should be a clear separation between program content and commercial messages. No host should do any selling. The sponsor of the commercial should always be identified.

Statistics have it that, by the time a young person is 18 years old, he shall have watched a total of 200,000 commercials!

Children are particularly vulnerable to unfair suasion because of their impressionability, and their lack of power to complain.

Advertising intended for children should always be in good taste. As it should be quick—no long, belabored, hard-sell commercial messages.

Another disturbing statistic: in a recent study for a fixed duration of time, kids watched many more spots than adults.

Spots for children should stress and uphold, not undermine, basic human values.

If the advertising and TV industries can't adequately regulate themselves in this regard, legislation is needed.

The limit on advertising minutes per hour of TV programming time should be scrupulously followed. Sadly, it often is not.

Children may not know how subliminally persuasive TV advertising is, and this makes them even more vulnerable to its blandishments. This is because TV works visually, and with the use of powerful symbols that speak to kids' subconscious.

It's becoming more difficult to distinguish between what's acceptable and what's exploitative in commercials for children. So, parents and educators have to be more vigilant, for the sake of the vulnerable minors under their charge.

Some commercials for children are reprehensible because they crassly inculcate the buying habit in very young viewers. They make them acquisitive at much too early an age. They seduce them into hankering for things they don't really need, just to keep up with their peers.

Even worse, some commercials use kiddie talents themselves as salespeople and hucksters. This makes the advertising message even more difficult to resist, and adds to the much too precocious stress on materialism that bothers so many teachers and parents.

Because they make acquiring things look so easy and so much fun, some commercials for children can create wrong attitudes, expectations and values that are difficult to overcome, even after the kids have become adults.

And parents complain that the artificial needs that some commercials for children create distend the family budget, to the detriment of really essential expenses.

It is hoped that advertisers and TV networks look into these issues and work hard to resolve them, for the welfare of the nation's children.

Quiz-show errors

QUIZMASTER: *Sino ang babaing* prime minister *ng* England?

Contestant: Queen Elizabeth!

(Prime minister, not queen. The answer is **Margaret Thatcher.**)

* * *

Q: In 1998, **Raul Roco** ran for president against whom?

C: **Cory Aquino!**

(You're more than 10 years too late. *Ang tamang sagot*, **Joseph Estrada.**)

* * *

Q: *Ang* Zurich *ba ay nasa* Malaysia *o* Switzerland?

C: Malaysia!

(*Maling-mali! Siyempre*, Switzerland.)

* * *

Q: *Ang* kimono *ay* traditional dress *saan*?

C: Philippines!

(No, Japan.)

* * *

Q: *Ilang baga meron ang isang tao?*

C: *Isa!*

(*E, di hirap siyang huminga? Ang tamang sagot, dalawa.*)

* * *

Q: *Sina* Sneezy *at* Dopey *ay mga* character *sa anong kwento?*

C: Scooby-Doo!

(No, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"!)

* * *

Q: *Ano ang* full name *ng* chemist *na nag*-develop *ng* process *na* Pasteurization?

C: Milk!

(No, **Louis B. Pasteur!**)

Movies on TV

ON THE Cinemax channel: Friday, Sept. 13 at 1:30 p.m., "A Map of the World." 7 p.m., "The General's Daughter." 2 a.m., "Psycho."

Saturday, Sept. 14 at 10:45 a.m., "Superstar." 2 p.m., "The 10 Commandments."

Sunday, Sept 15 at 8 a.m., "Angela's Ashes." 10:50 p.m., "Sleepy Hollow."

Monday, Sept. 16 at 8:30 p.m., "Project Greenlight, 10: Biagl's Basket." 9 p.m., "Groundhog day." 1:55 a.m., "October Sky."

LEARNER. Newcomer Aubrey Miles is dead serious about building a good reputation.

Aubrey Miles ready for high-brow challenge

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

SHE was named after one of the hit ballads of the pop group Bread and would have been a beauty queen or a fashion model had she pursued her dream. But **Aubrey Miles** was destined to be in show biz.

It was her stint in a modeling pageant that led Aubrey to the limelight. TV host **German Moreno** spotted her when she joined the Elite Model contest in 1999.

"Although I didn't win in the contest, it opened doors for me," shares the 20-year-old Aubrey. "I was offered a contract by Viva Films, but I chose the GMA 7 offer over that."

Prior to joining Elite Model, Aubrey was seen in nearly half-a-dozen beauty tilts, including Miss Caloocan, Miss Lions Club and Global Queen.

Under her contract with the GMA Artists Center, Aubrey was given regular exposure on TV shows like "Beh Bote Nga" and "Best Friends."

The third in a brood of four, Aubrey believes she got her flair for acting from her mom, **Perlas Sandel**, who had a short-lived film career when the latter appeared in the action flick, "Return of the Dragon."

At 13, Aubrey auditioned for ABS-CBN's Star Circle, with no such luck.

"Even when I was only five years old, I remember auditioning for every child role but I never got accepted," Aubrey says.

"My lola also tried it out in the movies, but didn't seriously pursue an acting career. I guess acting really runs in the family."

Aubrey would have also been a classical diva. She was a voice major dishing out arias at the UST Conservatory of Music, when she got sidetracked by the lure of the cameras and the kleig lights.

It took three years, however, since that fateful day when Kuya Germs discovered her, for Aubrey to enjoy a major career break.

She had to contend herself with one brief TV exposure after another, from TV commercials to sitcom stints.

Even after she signed up an exclusive, two-year, eight-picture contract with Regal Entertainment, Aubrey was not immediately tossed into the limelight.

She also inked a five-year management contract with **Dondon Monteverde**, who now handles her entertainment career.

"I appreciate all the good breaks coming my way and the people who give me importance," Aubrey says. "I value that."

Aubrey will be launched into solo stardom in the sex-drama, "Prosti," directed by **Erik Matti.**

She hurdled weeks of gruelling workshops with her director to prepare her for her launching picture.

But what makes Aubrey different from the other nymphets earlier seen on the big screen is that she is willing to go to great lengths to prove that her rise has nothing to do with her body, but with her work. She is dead serious about building a good reputation.

"I want to follow the same career path that the likes of Jaclyn Jose, Lorna Tolentino or Tetchie Agbayani took," Aubrey maintains. "They started out as sexy stars, but graduated to become serious actresses."

Even without the traditional boost of box office tallies, Aubrey has managed to create attention. Thankfully, here is one sexy actress who refuses to thrive on gimmicks or controversies just to gain media mileage.

But Aubrey will not mind a high-brow challenge.

"I'm a learner," she describes herself. "I always want to learn new things. I'm ready for the challenge. When I decided to go bold, I was prepared for it."

This lady who likes Hollywood actors **Josh Hartnett** and **Chris Klein**, has braced herself even with the intrigues that come with a budding show biz career.

Aubrey's show biz life, however, has left her away from her friends. She has also set aside any romantic involvement.

"At this point, career is my priority," Aubrey says. "I don't have the time to fall in love. I'm focused on what I want to do and what I want to achieve."

Will she fall for someone from show biz?

"I'd rather not," she says. "I value my privacy when it comes to relationships."

"Prosti" is the first in a series of films that are expected to catapult Aubrey into the big time.

In Erik Matti's debut for the Regal banner, Aubrey figures in sizzling love scenes with her leading man, **Jay Manalo.**

"The hardest was the tricycle scene I did with Jay," Aubrey offers. "We shot that from 1 a.m. to about 5 a.m. and with matching rain effect to make it more cinematic. It was physically demanding, but I welcomed that kind of challenge."

"Prosti" takes a peek into the lives of paid brothel sex workers, under the helm of the same megman who rose to box office importance with a succession of blockbuster skin flicks like "Scorpio Nights 2," "Ekis" and "Dos Ekis."

Smear drive

MSGR. **Nico Bautista,** a director of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), believes that the ongoing rift at the censors office is

AUBREY/A29

Hot, wanted and powerful

From page A32

so it would be more convincing in our fight scenes. When I first saw Matthew, I was like, 'Ahhh!' I knew I had to look at least like somebody who could challenge him."

So we sense that working out is not one of his favorite pastimes?

"No," he confirms, "not at all. I work out only if I have to. If I don't have a deadline to be in a certain condition, I just sit there going, 'I can really be doing other things right now.' I can be enjoying myself so much more than being down at the gym working out. So I tend to be excessive about it. If I do it, I do it to the extreme or not at all."

Since he has developed a reputation as a "hunk," we were surprised to see him not take off his shirt in this movie, we tell him. What does he think of this image?

"I find it funny," he answers with amusement. "I want people to see me not just as a hunk but as an actor who can play a wide range of roles. That to me is more interesting. That is also the reason why I have to be doing something so different from what is expected of me."

Can he relate to his character, Quinn?

"Actually, I'm starting up a campaign for 'Save the Dragon,'" he mischievously says. "The ultimate irony of that was I find myself to be on the board of an organization called the Ark Trust and they asked me to present an award.

"I couldn't do it at the time because I was busy stabbing a homeless man and stomping on a stray dog. Basically, what I mean by that is that I find it very dull when people kind of try to moralize with the characters they're playing. I might have beliefs but it doesn't mean everybody has it.

"And I would find my own career dull when I finally play the characters that I have respect for or who I agree with. I have no interest in ever doing that, you know. I want to play interesting characters, no matter what."

He has, in fact, just finished shooting "Laurel Canyon" with Kate Beckinsale and Frances McDormand.

"It is the complete opposite of 'Reign of Fire,'" he points out. "It's a character movie and no special effects whatsoever. It's just about relationships--people sitting in rooms talking, fighting and that was exactly what I wanted to do after 'Reign of Fire.' I did 'Reign of Fire' in 20 weeks. 'Laurel Canyon' was done in five weeks."

Since he was introduced at age 13 in Steven Spielberg's World War II epic, "Empire of the Sun," how would he compare working with Spielberg and with Bowman who even went to Germany to convince him to take the part?

"Both directors have very strong characters," he reveals. "They may have their own style in approaching people but both of them are very comfortable in, not really dictating but leading the cast and crew to do what they have envisioned the movie to be."

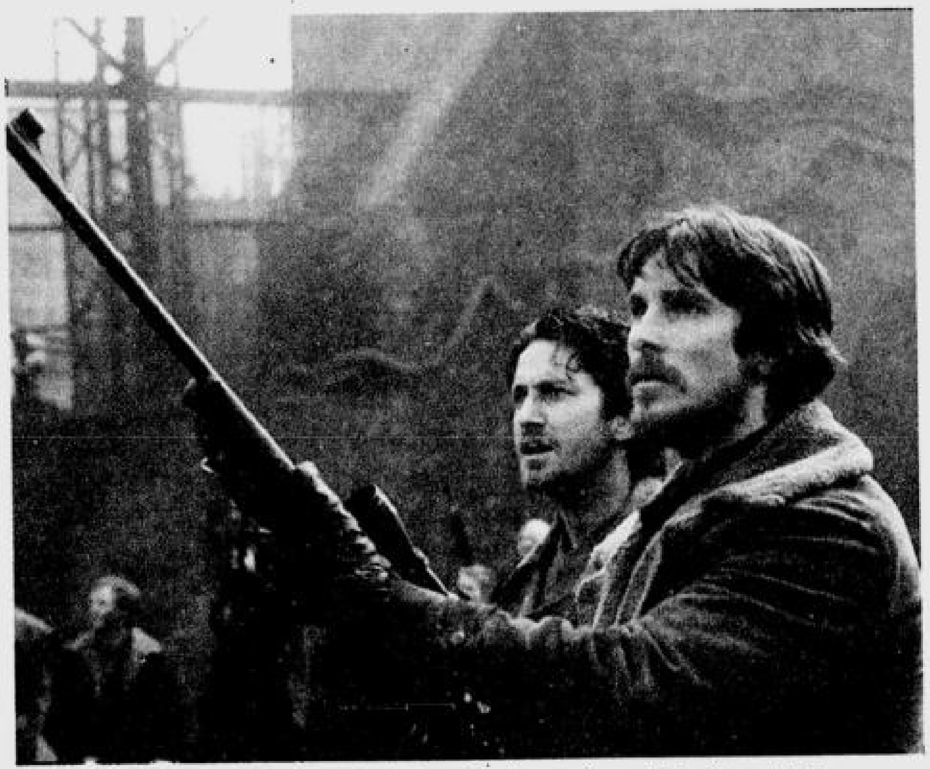
Bale, who lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Sibi Blazic, confesses that he enjoys living here in the City of Angels.

"I've grown to really enjoy myself here," he concedes. "I was accustomed to moving an awful lot since I was very young. However, this certainly is the place where there is more work. It is also where my wife grew up so it has become very much my second home too."

Does he read his movies' reviews?

"I tend to really read stuff," he confesses. "But like I said, it's all part of being an actor. In addition, if people perceive you in different ways, I enjoy that. If I can confuse people, then that's really my goal because I have no interest in becoming a stereotypical actor who you know what kind of movies he's going to be making. So I just enjoy it, really."

Bale, who was also chosen by Entertainment Weekly as one of the "most powerful cult figures of the past decade" because he has attracted one of the largest fandoms on the Internet, also adds, "I don't really mind the reviews, you know. It's a very silly profession if you really look at it."



UNPREDICTABLE. Bale (right, with "Reign of Fire" costar) says, "I don't want to be predictable."

Slapsbock show in Baguio City

RAP-METAL band slapshock is set to perform tonight at Skybox Bar in Cooyesan Hotel, Baguio City for the second week of their much talked-about bar tour series.

The bar tour is in line with the promotion of Slapshock's latest album under Virgin-EMI Records—Project 11-41, kicked off before a jampacked crowd at Hard Rock Café.

The Baguio City leg of the band's bar tour will be followed by shows at R&B Music Venue in Tarlac (Sept. 14), Music Warehouse Manila (Sept. 18), Big Fella Grill and Music Bar in Better Living, Parañaque (Sept. 19), Latitude Bar in Zamboanga City (Sept. 21), Shooters Billiard Hall in Zamboanga City (Sept. 22), Music Warehouse in Baliuag, Bulacan (Sept. 25), COC Music Garden in Carriedo, Manila (Sept. 26) and Sound Stage in Cainta (Sept. 30).

Music, movie CDs on sale in September 'Ukay-ukay'

A GRAND sale of CDs and VCDs is being held on all Fridays and Saturdays of September featuring the world's biggest labels as well as Philippine works.

The sale, called "CD/VCD *Ukay-ukay* (A Pre-Xmas. Sale)," is happening on the 3rd floor of Universal Tower Bldg. at 1487 Quezon Avenue, near the corner of Examiner Street, in Quezon City.

The sale, which starts today from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., gives buyers up to 80 percent discounts.

"Ukay-Ukay" has a lot of pop, classical, jazz, rock, reggae, ska, R&B and hip Hop titles.

The sale also offers classic recordings of music legends Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Perry Como, Jim Reeves, Mama's and Papa's, Andrea Bocelli, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Paul Weller, Perez Prado, Matt Bianco and Billy Vaughn.

Movie buffs can also buy VCDs of their favorite blockbuster movies from Columbia Tristar, Paramount, Universal, and others distributed by Magnavision. Among the film titles are "Vanilla Sky," "Shrek," "Glass House," "Bridget Jones' Diary," "The Score," "Rollerball," "Jurassic Park III," "Tomb Raider," "Enemy at the Gates," "Mummy Returns," "Fast and the Furious," and many others.

The sale also offers classic recordings of music legends Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Perry Como, Jim Reeves, Mama's and Papa's, Andrea Bocelli, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Paul Weller, Perez Prado, Matt Bianco and Billy Vaughn.

For inquiries, call 373-9091, 372-9959, 372-9914 or 727-4011-22.

Bernadette gets her 'Wish'

By Marinel R. Cruz

WHEN GMA 7's rival network launched a show similar to the concept behind "Wish Ko Lang," its host Bernadette Sembrano only shrugged her shoulders and smiled.

This, according to Sembrano, is a competition she wholeheartedly accepts.

The regular weekly feature on GMA has gotten favorable response from viewers because of its unique concept of granting people's wishes.

With the launching of the rival show, the creative team behind "Wish Ko Lang" remains unfazed and simply plans to work harder to make people happy in its own little way.

"If you come to think of it, one more program like 'Wish' could only mean that more people's wishes would be granted," Sembrano said.

"The rival station could be thinking of giving away bigger gifts. But then again, it's not the value of the gift that we are trying to inculcate to our viewers, we want them to appreciate life."

Despite its noble intentions, some people still feel that the show merely offers superficial solutions to real social problems.

Sembrano says media have been exposing big issues that need urgent government attention but are often ignored.

"Wish Ko Lang" might be granting simple wishes but its effect is immediate and lasting to the person whom the show has helped.

"We grant really simple, one-day wishes, those that are not materialistic in nature. Although we sometimes give out material things, they are merely incidental," Sembrano tells the INQUIRER.

She is referring to the story of Lola Maria, an old woman suffering from leprosy whom the people behind the show had just given a wheelchair.

Sembrano said the thrust of the story had been to reunite Lola Maria with her family, and not the fact that "Wish" had given her a wheelchair.

"We do have lots of medical stories. But we can't feature purely medical stories because 'Wish' is not 'Bisig Bayan,'" Sembrano explained. "We have to have a mixture of funny and touching events because this is a feel-good show."

"Bisig Bayan" is the public service arm of GMA 7.

Sembrano said that hosting "Wish" is lighter and more engaging when compared to the work she still turns in for "The Probe Team," where she is a reporter.

"I take part in other people's experiences. It is very different when I report, I must write the story objectively so there must be no immersion.

"As host, I appreciate the fact that I don't have to worry about the shots or the angles. I'm there just to experience the moment, be with people."

SEMBRANO No complaints.

"The Probe Team," a multi-awarded investigative tele-magazine, airs on GMA 7 every Wednesday, 11:30 p. m.

Sembrano took up business administration at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. She found herself unhappy working in a bank and decided to try her luck as a newscaster in another channel.

It was a natural choice for Sembrano who is genuinely interested in people and telling their stories. After working there for five months, she transferred to GMA.

She has been working for GMA 7 for almost five years now. She reports for work at the GMA office in Kamuning from Mondays to Fridays, 5 to 10 p.m., where she anchors the news for "Flash Report."

On weekends, she does work for "The Probe Team" and "Wish." Her work for the two shows has taken Sembrano to Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Isabela, Aklan and the Cordillera Region in just two months.

Despite her very tight schedule, Sembrano has no intention of giving up even one of her three shows.

"I don't want to quit 'Flash,'" she said. "It may be just reading the news, but at least I'm informing the public. I also love what I do for 'Probe,' I like to investigate, tackle issues and report them. 'Wish' naman is so light that it's like you're not working."

Because of all the work, Sembrano prefers to stay home and sleep or read a book than go to parties. She has no complaints, though. She believes that to whom much is given, much is required.

The former girlfriend of Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino thinks that her love life is pretty dull, too.

She said that's because she hardly goes out and doesn't meet anyone special.

Before "Wish," Sembrano said she used to talk and hang out with Noynoy regularly. Nowadays, she prefers to just stay in her apartment and sleep.

Sembrano said she might not cross paths again with the people. that "Wish" have helped, but their brief encounter allowed her to share with them a part of her life.

"Wish" might not have cured Lola Maria of her leprosy, but her reunion with her family has strengthened her soul.

Aubrey Miles . . .

From page A28

part of a grand design to destabilize the Arroyo government.

Citing similar cases, particularly that of the Social Security System (SSS) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Bautista said the "destabilization" pattern is similar to the one that is now being carried out at the MTRCB.

"Political machination is very evident on these cases as the main objective is to undermine the present administration at the expense of top government officials like Dinglasan," said Bautista.

Suffering the same predicament at the moment, apart from the MTRCB, are the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB).

"Many believe that political nemesis of the present administration are using petty rifts happening in some government agencies to bolster their assertion that the government is in shambble," Bautista noted.

Meanwhile, observers surmised that known supporters of deposed President **Joseph Estrada** are said to be behind the relentless smear drive against MTRCB chair **Marilen Dinglasan**, who was a classmate of President Gloris Macapagal-Arroyo at Assumption College.

"In the case of Dinglasan, anti-Arroyo forces find her to be an easy prey for such an attack given her very close relationship with the President," an observer said.

Estrada continues to enjoy a wide following both in the movie and TV industries. Observers believe anti-Arroyo forces are using the "network" of the ousted president to carry out their political agenda.

Last Wednesday, lawyers identified with a former top official of the MTRCB took over the case of some disgruntled board employees who earlier filed charges against Dinglasan before the Office of the Ombudsman.

The said group is reportedly funding the ongoing protest by some MTRCB members in an effort to cripple the leadership of Dinglasan and, in the process, embarrass her before President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Disgruntled union members have continued to ignore attempts of Dinglasan to settle their disagreements "amicably." Instead, the workers have resorted to sinister plots to humiliate her.

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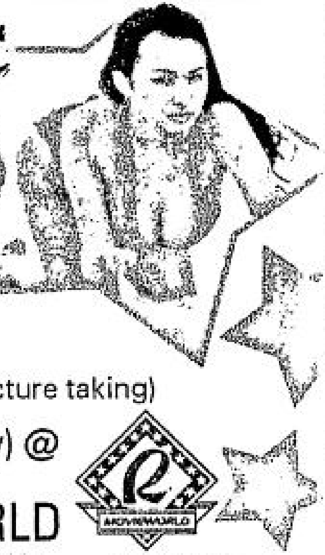
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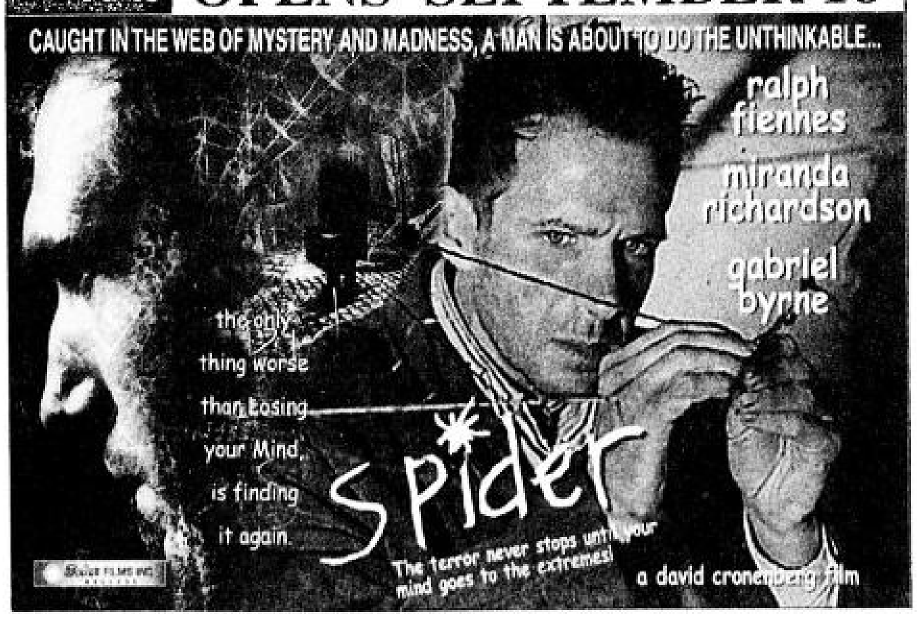
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REIGN OF FIRE **P13** 11:25,1:30,3:35, 5:40,7:50,10:00	**SIGNS** **P13** 12:40,2:55,5:10, 7:25,9:40	**DIVINE SECRET OF YA-YA SISTERHOOD** **P-13** 12:30,2:55,5:20, 7:45,10:10

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Sept.19 (Thu)

Clean Sweep	2:00
Kippur	4:30
Growing Pains	7:00
The Policeman	9:30

Sept.20 (Fri)

The Policeman	11:30
Don't Give a Damn	2:00
Late Marriage	4:30
Total Love	7:00
Yana's Friends	9:30

Sept.21 (Sat)

Growing Pains	11:30
Yana's Friends	2:00
Clean Sweep	4:30
Kippur	7:00
Late Marriage	9:30

Sept.22 (Sun)

Total Love	11:30
Late Marriage	2:00
Yana's Friends	4:30
Don't Give a Damn	7:00
Clean Sweep	9:30

Sept.23 (Mon)

Total Love	2:30
Don't Give a Damn	4:30
The Policeman	7:00
Kippur	9:30

Sept.23 (Mon)

Growing Pains	2:30
The Policeman	4:30
Clean Sweep	7:00
Don't Give a Damn	9:30

Sept.23 (Mon)

Kippur	2:30
Late Marriage	4:30
Total Love	7:00
Yana's Friends	9:30

Side A, Freestyle banner September blast at 8th Day Bar

SIDE A BAND

AT THE 8th Day Bar and Café, not only will the 21st night of September be worth remembering, but all nights of this ninth month of the year as well.

With all the amenities and entertainment fare up for grabs, the premiere night haunt at St. Francis Square in Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City is certainly worth checking out.

Now on its fourth successful year, 8th Day easily seats 230 people and on SRO nights, could accommodate as much as 350 habitues.

Despite targeting the upper scale market, its prices have remained to be competitive. A consumable cover charge of P200 can be availed on regular days.

When Side A or Freestyle takes centerstage, however, it still amounts to a reasonable P300.

In line with its new management led by Wyngard Tracy and his partner, 8th Day's interiors have likewise taken a new look.

A glass sculpture of renowned artist Impy Pilapil welcomes its patrons onstage. Even the wall colors and the lights have taken on a different hue.

"There's nothing like brightening up the scene," Wyngard says. "Our clients come here to relax and that is just what we give them."

This month, the stage is set and the lights are on for Fat Session (Mondays), Freestyle (Tuesdays), Side A (Wednesdays), DV8 (Thursdays), Passage (Fridays) and Barbie's Cradle back to back with Next Level (Saturdays).

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ITLOG / HUNGER FOR LOVE
ODEON	REIGN OF FIRE
ODEON-2	SCORPION KING / LABRADOR
ROBEN	BAKAT
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	BAD COMPANY / 13TH DAY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	BAKAT
REMAR	BAKAT
REMAR-2	GAMITAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	LAMAN
B	REIGN OF FIRE
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YAYA SISTERHOOD
CINEMA-2	REIGN OF FIRE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	LAMAN
CINEMA-2	HIGH RISK
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GAMITAN
CINEMA-6	BAKAT
CINEMA-7	DERAILED
CINEMA-8	AUTIN POWERS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	REIGN OF FIRE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DIVINE SECRETS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	REVELATION
CINEMA-12	SIMONE
CINEMA-14	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-15	SIGNS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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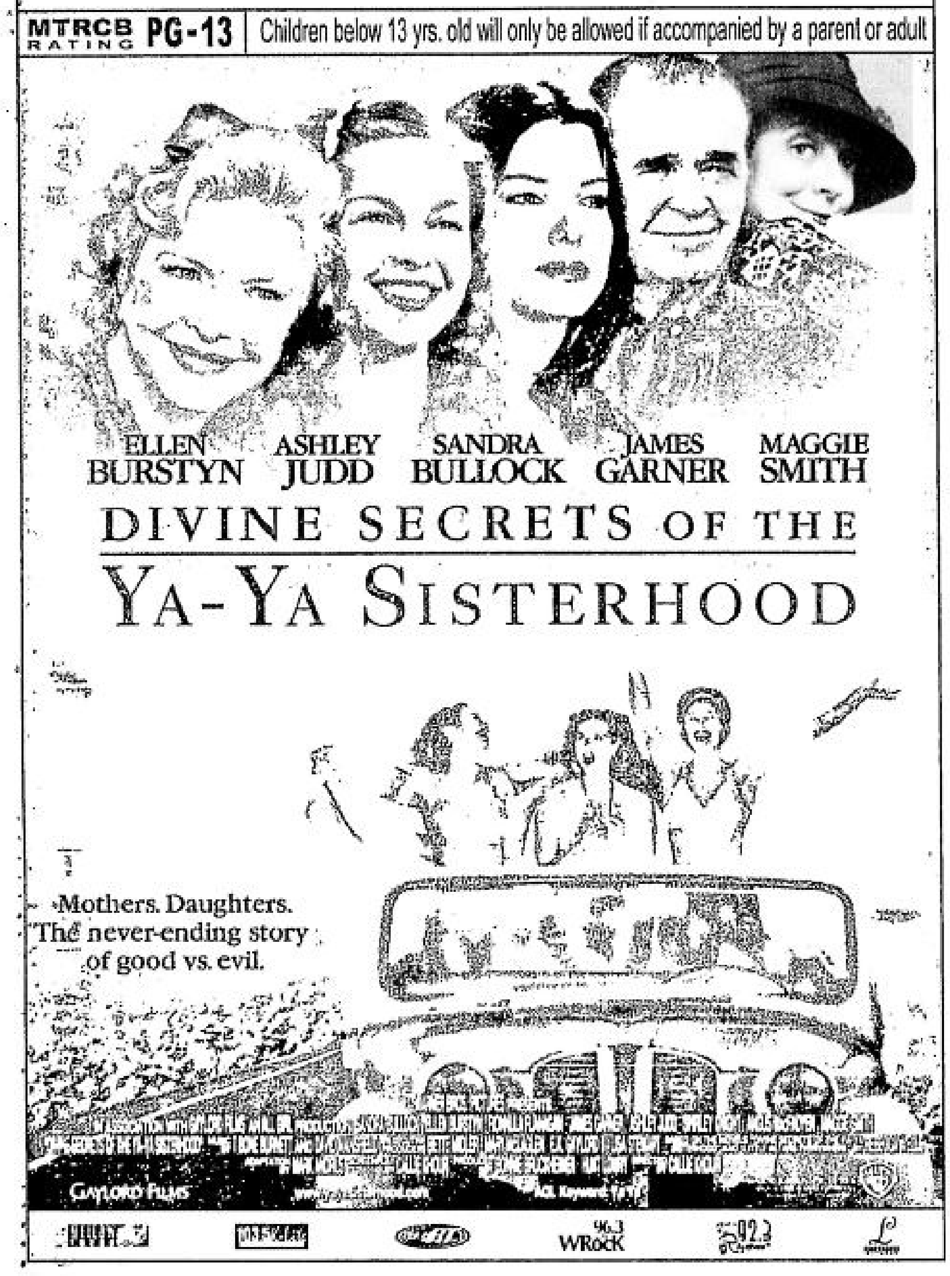

ELLEN BURSTYN ASHLEY JUDD SANDRA BULLOCK JAMES GARNER MAGGIE SMITH

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Mothers. Daughters. The never-ending story of good vs. evil.

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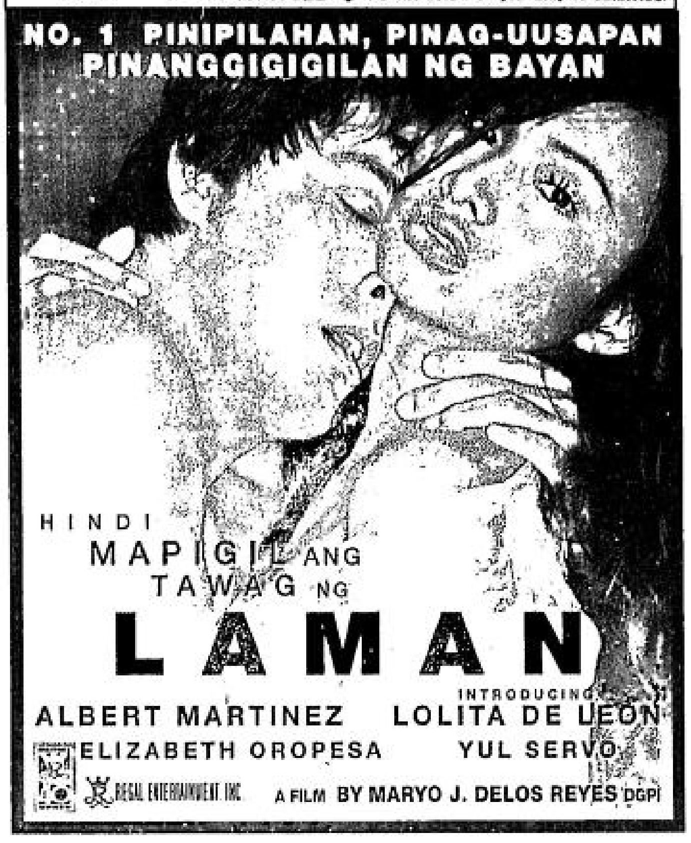

NO. 1 PINIPILAHAN, PINAG-UUSAPAN PINANGGIGIGILAN NG BAYAN

HINDI MAPIGIL ANG TAWAG NG

LAMAN

ALBERT MARTINEZ ELIZABETH OROPESA

INTRODUCING LOLITA DE LEON YUL SERVO

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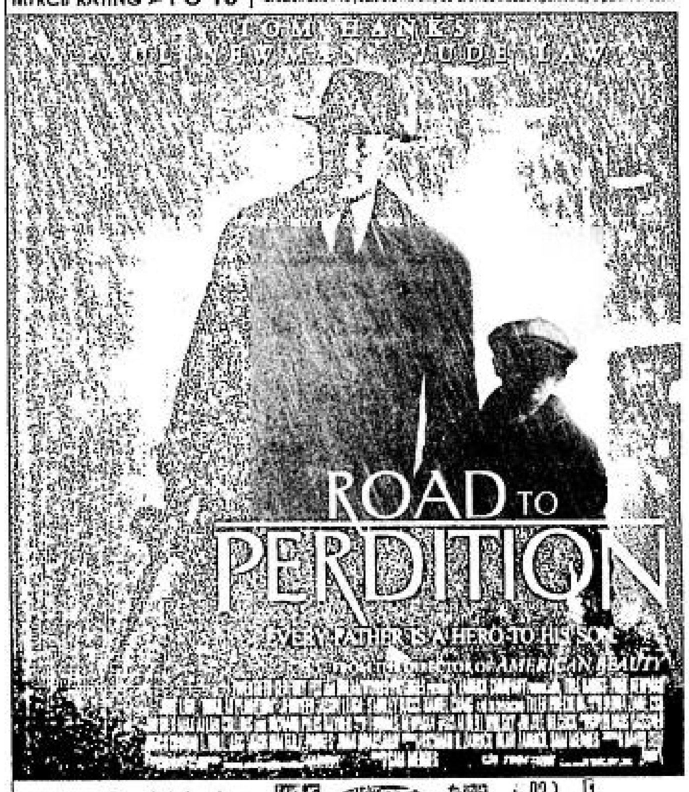

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THE BOURNE IDENTITY	THE BOURNE IDENTITY 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00	AN AMERICAN RHAPSODY (EXCLUSIVE)	THE BOURNE IDENTITY 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA-YA SISTERHOOD THE BOURNE IDENTITY
3 LAMAN	AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER 5 SIGNS	Onstage ILLUSIONE ENCORE SEPT. 13 & 14 - 8:30 PM	SIGNS 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30 DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA-YA SISTERHOOD 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	4 SIMONE
4 JOLOGS	REIGN OF FIRE 7 DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA-YA SISTERHOOD		SIMONE 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	5 SIGNS

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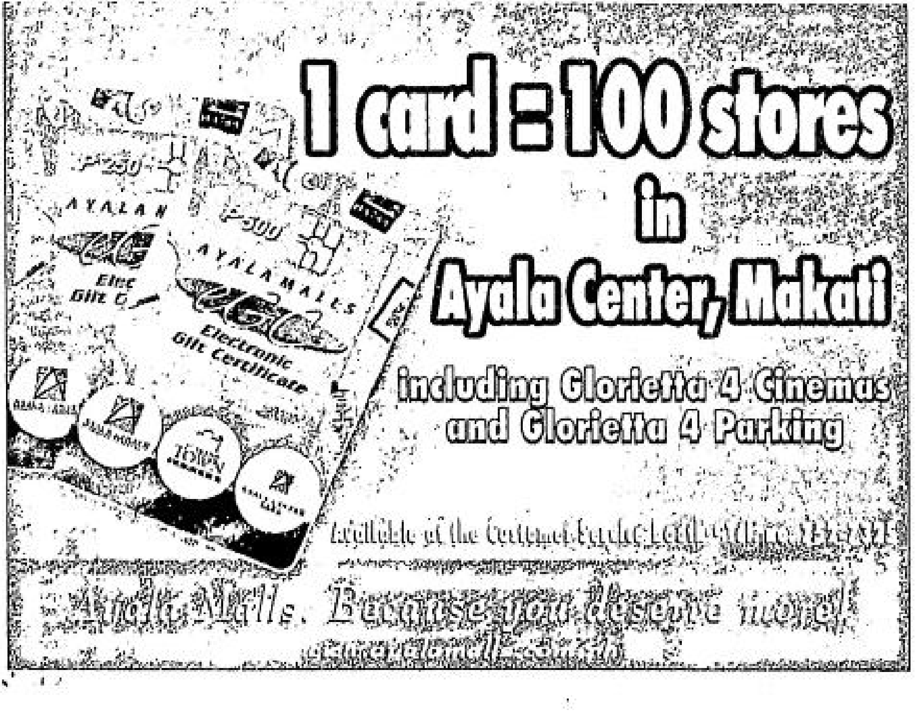

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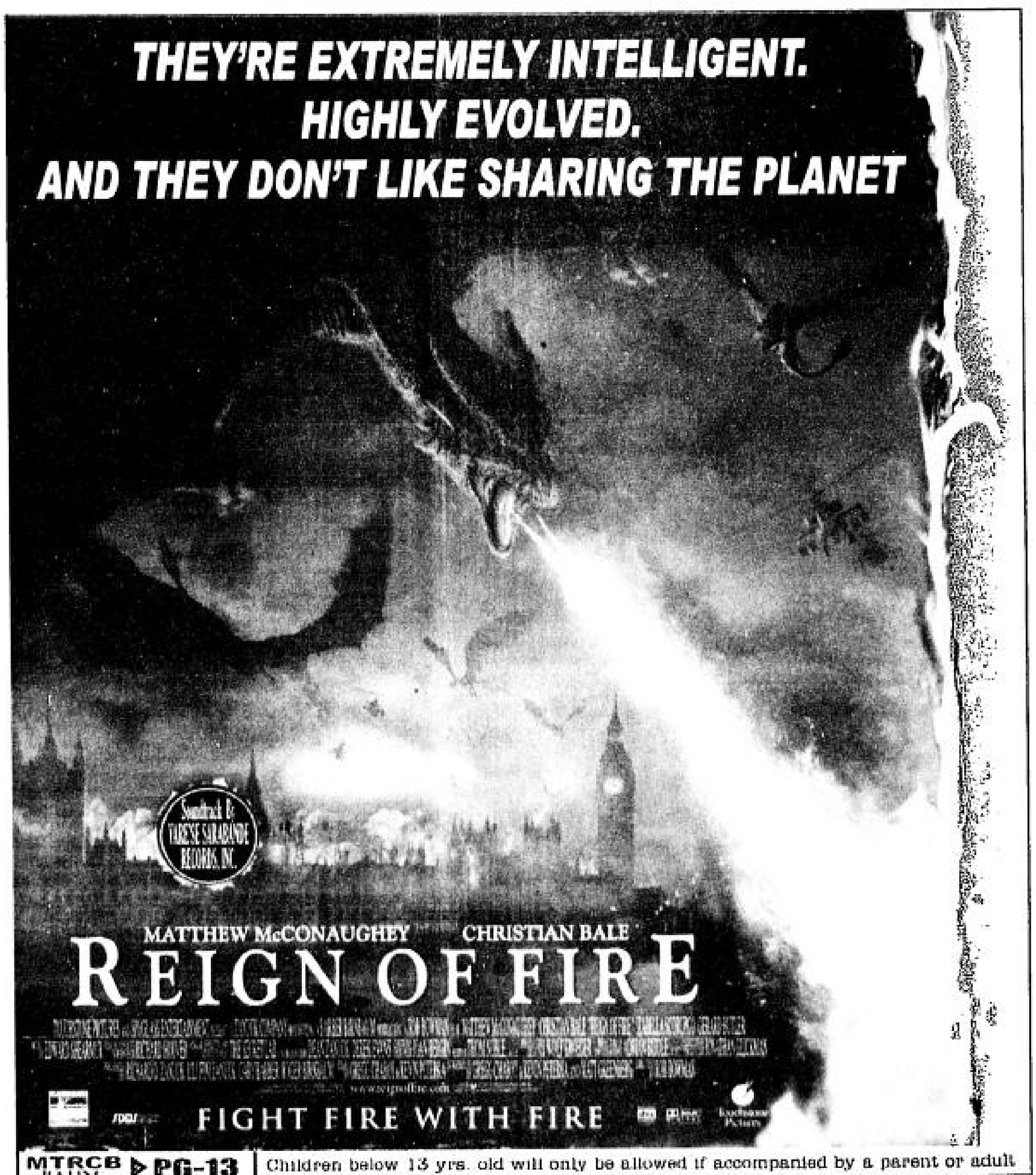

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Basil, Ryan teamup in special Crossover concert in Cebu

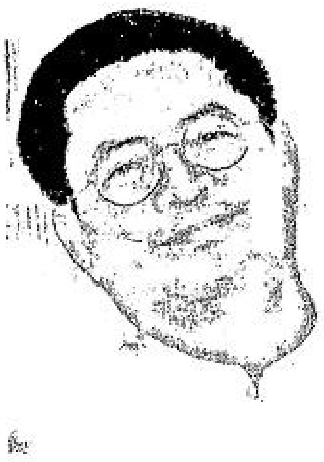
SHOWS

TWO of the country's respected artists in the music industry who also happen to be very good friends—Basil Valdes and Ryan Cayabyab—will be in Cebu Sept. 14 for a special Crossover concert at the Grand Ballroom of the Waterfront Hotel Lahug.

For this special show, Basil and Ryan will work with some of the country's finest musicians such as Roger Herrera on bass, Noel Santiago on guitar and Teddy Tipon on drums, with back-up vocalists Katherine Molina, Janet Aracama and Olive Isidro.

Basil and Ryan, whose collaboration spans more than decades and extends offstage, will render favorite Crossover classics plus their highly acclaimed OPM hits like "Nais Ko," "Paraisong Parisukat," "Kahit Ika'y Panaginip Lang," "Iduyan Mo" and powerful and stirring medleys of great artists such as Barry Manilow and Michel Legrand.

For ticket inquiries, call 93.1 Crossover Cebu at (032)253-5874.



LESACA. Topbills TWM 5's second offering.

Musical soiree

THE WORLD of Music (TWM) concert series continues with another musical soiree, Sept. 14 at the second level of the Podium in Mandaluyong City.

For the past 5 years, TWM has been widely commended for its efforts to bring classical music to the malls, where most people, especially families, go to for leisure, entertainment, dining and shopping.

In line with its main objective of promoting music appreciation, TWM presents this year a musical soiree format that promotes lively interaction between performers and the audience.

Coming right after the much applauded info-taining exposition of Dean Johnny Ramos and Bo Razon about the Afro-Latin beat and the roots of modern music, the second musical soiree will present violinist John Lesaca, who will reveal the facets and nuances of the violin as a medium of communication and expression while rendering a selection of numbers from his crowd-pleasing repertoire of popular and classical compositions.

Lesaca will interact with the Sarreal family, consisting of six musically gifted brothers and sisters, namely, Robert "Panggo," John Raymond, Joseph Gideon, Jacob Gabriel, Agnes Dominique and Angelie Celeste.

Joining them are Johnny Ramos, former Dean of UP College of Music.

Highlight of the musical soiree will be the numbers in which all the featured artists will jam together.

The TWM concert is sponsored by Montre, Your Life, Your Time, Your Style.

Co-sponsors are Rado, Tissot and Mido watches of Switzerland, with the Cultural Center of the Philippines and Pagliacci Sapore Italiano.

Cooperators are Joey@92.3, NU 107.5, Crossover 105.1, RJ 100.3 and Timeline, official service center for Rado, Tissot and Mido Swiss Watches.

For details, call 726-2953 or 726-1968.

5TH COUNTDOWN CONCERT SERIES
After an exciting musical journey with Toy Symphony last weekend, five more musical groups are lined up for a rousing prelude to The 5th's highly anticipated big launch. Hyperbeat sets The 5th to a hip start at 6 tonight at the Grand Atrium. Soul Sisters performs tomorrow (Sept. 14), Parliament Syndicate (sept. 21), Foresight (Sept. 27) and Session Road (Sept. 28). Admission is free.

Bands at Brick Road

THE BRICK Road at Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall presents its weekend lineup for September.

Jam with Wency Cornejo and his band as they perform live Sept. 14.

Listen to the soulful music of Anna Fegi and the A-Petite Band as they take centerstage Sept. 20.

It's back to the '70s as Retrospect performs Sept. 28.

From Sept. 15 to Nov. 13, the "Family Fun Day at The Brick Road" will bring big prizes to lucky shoppers.

A family with a minimum of five members will be chosen "Family of the Week." They will receive the following: P10,000 worth of gift certificates from the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, dinner for five at any Brick Road restaurant and gift packs.

The Brick Road houses the following establishments: TGIFriday's, Cabalen, Figaro, Don Henrico's, Padi's Point, Me Gusta Bar and Grill, Giggles Comedy Bar and Restaurant, Gloria Maris, Boardwalk KTV, Locked and Loaded Network Gaming and James Cooper Salon and Spa.

The Brick Road is located at the East Wing Open Carpark of the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Marcos Highway, corner Felix Avenue, Cainta, Rizal.

'Illusione: Encore'

BAHAGHARI Productions brings back "Illusione . . . Encore!" at Onstage Greenbelt this weekend, with gala shows (8:30 p.m.) on Sept. 13 and 14, and matinee show (4 p. m.) on Sept. 14.

Witness the spectacle once more as the fabulous impersonators of "Illusione . . . Encore!" bring to life some of the hottest international stars such as Barbra Streisand, Celine Dion, Madonna and Mariah Carey.

Famed stylist James Cooper will do a scene-stealing performance as Diana Ross and Carol Channing, while choreographer Douglas Nierras comes in as Odette in a hilarious rendition of "Swan Lake."

Also in the cast is stage actor Ojie Juliano, who plays the "lead role" as the modern gay who tells the story behind "Illusione. . .Encore!"

"Illusione . . . Encore!" is put together by the brilliant team of Bahaghari Productions, with choreographer Douglas Nierras as director and choreographer and Ricky Lopez as scriptwriter. Stage design is by Rico Ancheta while costume design is by Eric Pineda. Official make-up stylist is Dennis Tan, prosthetics by Liz and Benny Batoctoy.

Tickets for the gala shows on Sept. 13 and 14 are priced at P300, P500 and P800, while tickets for the matinee show on Sept. 14 are priced at P200, 400 and P700.

Tickets are available at all Ticketworld outlets (891-5610) and at Powerdance Studio (633-6417 look for Joan).

Mild Seven gimmick

THIS weekend, the Mild Seven models will turn up the heat at favorite gimmick places in the Quezon City area.

Don't miss the exciting event as bar habitués who are Mild Seven smokers will receive free premium Mild Seven items such as T-shirts, caps, turbo lighters and hip ear gears from the gorgeous models.

Check out Bargo, Blue Onion, Cable Car, Chicago Road House, Whistle Stop, Culture Club and Amoeba tonight (Sept. 13) or drop by Aresi, Ten Years After, Moomba, Gerry's Grill, Quattro, Whistle Stop and Congo Grille tomorrow night (Sept. 14).

American DJ

CLUB event promoters Natural Born Klubbers (NBK) will fly in famed American DJ Sandra Collins for an exclusive one-night performance, "An All-Out AXEperience: The Axe Effect with Sandra Collins," tonight at The Basement in trendy Eastwood City Walk, Libis, Quezon City.

Doors open at 9 p.m. for Collins' first-ever Philippine gig. Showing off her DJ skills at the same same event will be NBK resident Roman Mojica and The Basement resident Cocoy Puyat.

Dubbed "The Trance Goddess" by the American press, Collins has become synonymous with today's top trance DJs.

Releasing her first mixed CD "Lost in Time" in 1997, she went on to bag the Best Trance DJ title at the 1998 Global DJ Awards. A move sent to New York saw her playing regularly at the legendary but now defunct Twilo. By the end of 1999, she had been named best female artist by the URB magazine's reader's poll, sharing the title with pop artist Lauryn Hill.

Tickets to the show will be available at the gate.

VALDES

CAYABYAB

Other major sponsors of this dance event are Globe GenTXT, Radius, Joey 92.3, NU 107 and Ysonline.

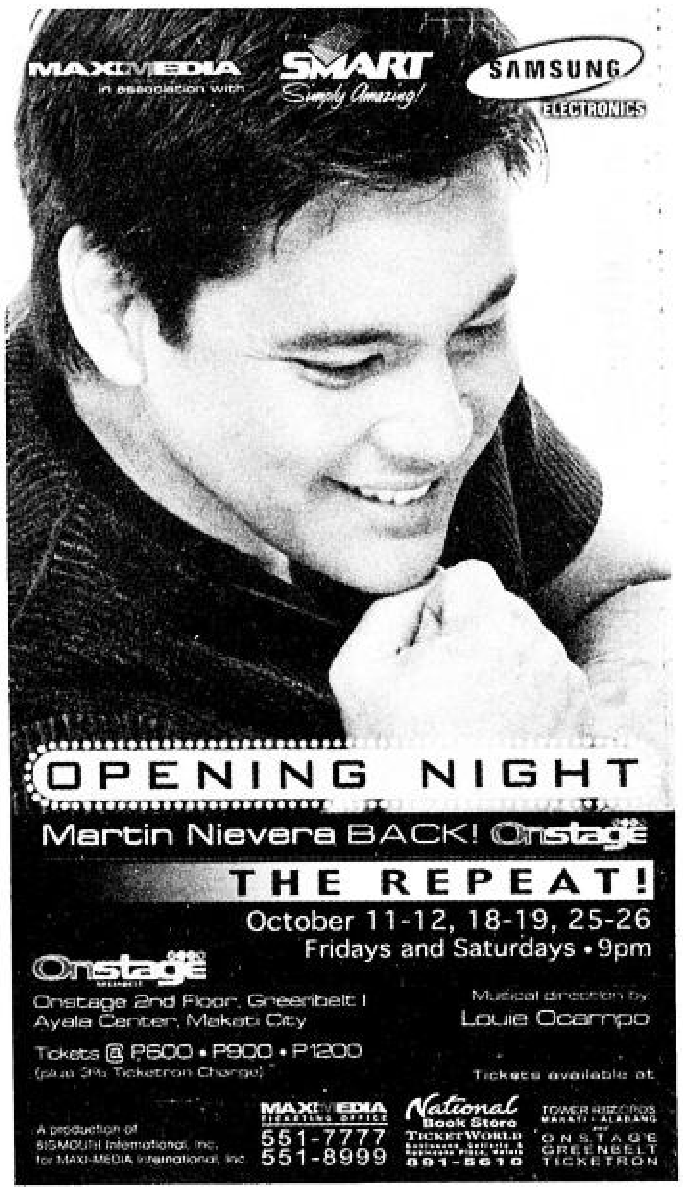
Catch NBK's regular Makati events on Thursdays at Pravda with Manolet Dario and David Jacob and at Flute Wine Bar with Adrian Cuenca.

Busy September

GLADYS and the Boxers with K sweeps the country this month with shows in and out of town, giving non-stop laughter and entertainment.

The group regularly performs at Soundstage in Cainta on Tuesdays, Kampo West on Wednesdays and Saturdays, Ratsky Malate on Thursdays.

Gladys and the Boxers with K will also have special performances at Music Warehouse in Meycauayan, Bulacan tonight, Music Museum on Sept. 14, Dagupan Astrodome on Sept. 20, Metro Star Mall on Sept. 21 and Robinson's Pampanga on Sept. 22.



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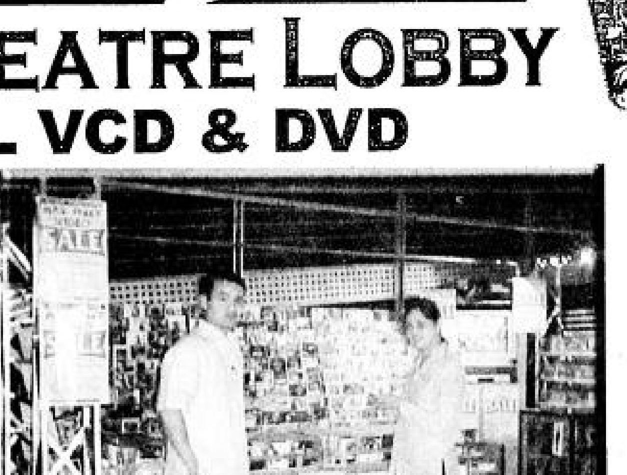

Mr. Paolo F. Mendoza, General Manager & Ms. Malu A. Lauto, Art & Promo Manager of Greenhills Theatre Mall, in support of the STOP PIRACY! CAMPAIGN with MAGNAVISION

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

CULT FIGURE. Christian Bale in "Reign of Fire."

Hot, wanted and powerful

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES--Not every man can walk into a room with a disheveled shoulder-length shag haircut and a beard and still look good.

Wearing a black short-sleeved shirt and black pants, Christian Bale, 28, voted by Premiere magazine as one of the "Hottest Leading Men Under 30" and by Interview magazine as one of the "Most Wanted Actors of the New Millennium," gets away with it.

He is hot, hunky and sexy. Now why am I thinking of the song "Simply Irresistible"? And have I also mentioned he is a flirt?

He arrives at a room in the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Marina del Rey and immediately cozies up to one of the female journalists from England. He looks at her notes. "Dog, cat, meow..." he reads aloud to the combined amusement and embarrassment of the reporter who tries to cover her notes and takes away the pad from his sight.

Then he turns to me, looks at my notes and says, "Now let's see what you have down there..."

The handsome and charismatic Welsh-born Bale, whose credits include Spielberg's "Empire of the Senses," "Velvet Goldmine," "American Psycho," and "Shaft," is the daring British fire chief Quinn in the action-adventure movie, "Reign of Fire."

Distributed by Buena Vista Pictures, "Reign of Fire" also stars Matthew McConaughey ("The Wedding Planner," "Contact") as the Kentucky-born soldier Van Zan and Izabella Scorupco ("Vertical Limit") as the feisty and lovely helicopter pilot Alexandra.

The story of Quinn

This epic is the story of Quinn, a young boy in present-day London who accidentally awakens a centuries-old dragon. The blaze-belching dragon proceeds to destroy everything in sight.

Twenty years later, Quinn, is a tough, resilient fire chief and head of a community of human survivors in a world now dominated by dragons. Later, this group meets the American warrior dragon-hunters led by the hot-tempered militant Van Zan who wants to reclaim the planet. Bale's character mutters one of the film's memorable lines, "The only thing worse than dragons... Americans."

The movie was filmed on location in England and remote areas of Ireland, and the six-month shoot, according to Bale, wasn't easy.

"There were lots of dead meat, bits of flesh, organs and intestines that were used as the dragons' carcasses. It wasn't a pretty smell," he discloses.

Asked what were his reasons for doing this post-apocalyptic saga directed by Rob Bowman ("The X-Files"), Bale replies, "I was initially more surprised that they were interested in me for it because I haven't been approached for movies like this at all. Personally, I recall enjoying 'Pete's Dragon' as a kid but it's not quite the same category as 'Reign of Fire.'

"I just want to do different kinds of movies. The fact that it was an unusual kind of movie for me to be offered with is already something. I don't want to be predictable. It was a different role for me and so it was a different kind of challenge.

"I remember when I first met with Rob Bowman," he recalls. "We sat down and we both had an awful lot of concerns about what could go wrong. With any movie, you have to gamble. There is more risk, however, when the movie is a big budgeted movie that has dragons as the stars and which I'm not gonna get to see until the movie is done.

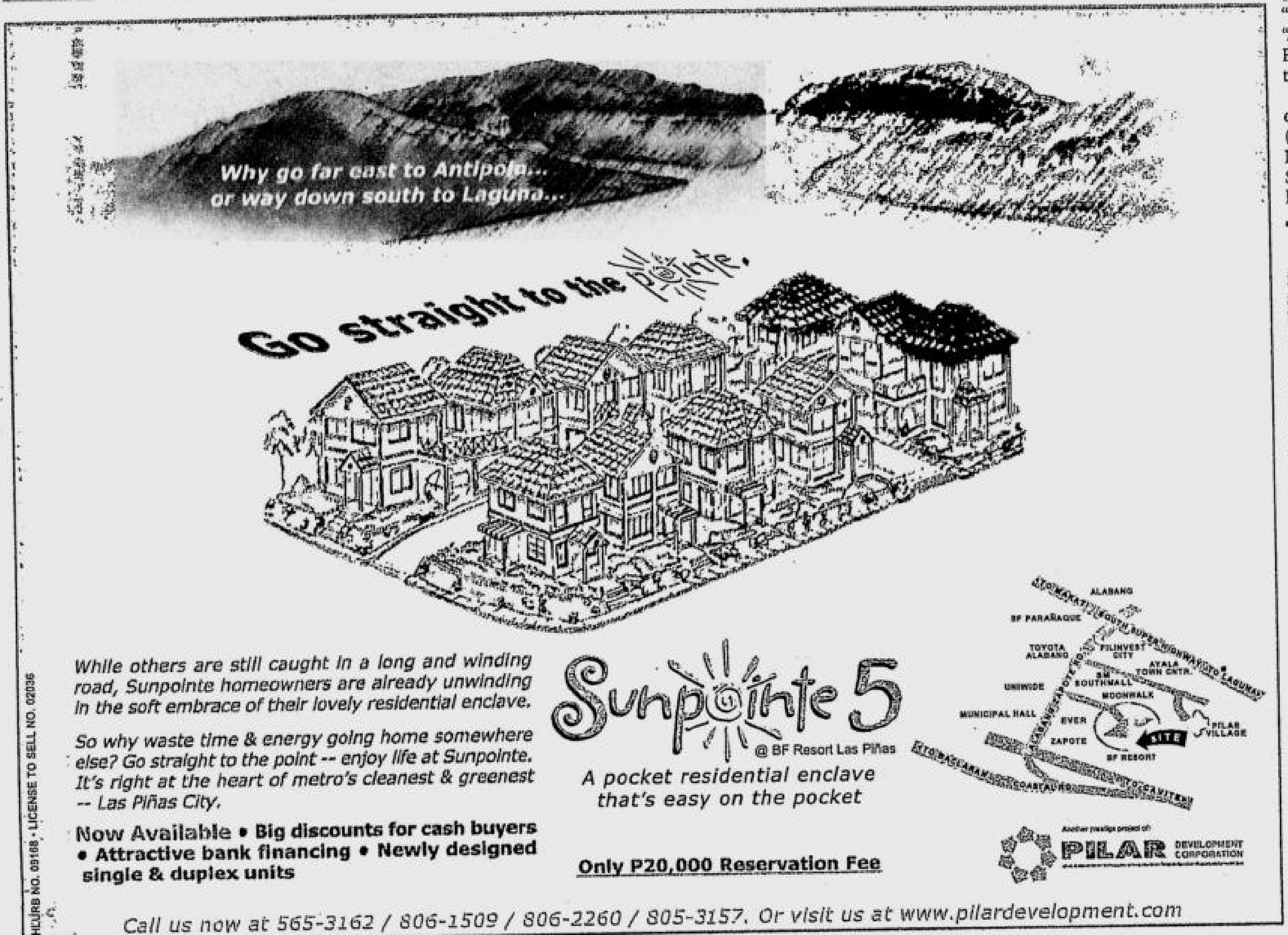
"So I had to trust Rob. When he explained to me his vision which was to create as much reality as possible, it was as if he'd read my mind. In a way, I just had to take it on a handshake."

Were there actual punches that landed between him and Matthew McConaughey?

"Actually, yes," Bale admits with a smile. "There certainly was one that came from me to Matthew right after he hit me which is in the movie so it's a great piece. Matthew and I really went for it. He head-butted me for real and I was dazed for a few seconds. Obviously, it's better because it's real. I didn't mind it and I don't think Matthew did, either."

He explains that "Matthew was living down at the boxing gym. He was in formidable shape. When I started, I was so skinny that I had to scramble to be able to look like him

HOT/A28



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Henry Sy buys 6.2% stake in SMC

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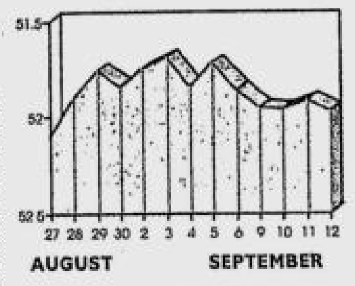
PESO - DOLLAR



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Stocks end lower

STOCKS ended lower yesterday after many investors chose to cash out of the market following six sessions of gains, traders said.

They noted that the slide was technically driven as investors chose to trim holdings rather than push prices higher after the main index broke a recent resistance mark of 1,143 points on Wednesday.

"It seems to be a technical correction. We have had a good run-up and some players may have just decided to cash out," said Eagle Equities Inc. president Joey Roxas.

Reuters

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GROUP of retail tycoon Henry Sy yesterday acquired a 6.2-percent stake in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. from the SMC Retirement Fund for P9.6 billion as part of its business diversification strategy.

The transaction, which involved 175 million common "A" shares, was crossed at the Philippine Stock Exchange at P55 per share. It was the largest stock transaction involving SMC shares since the $540-million buy-in deal with Japan's Kirin Brewery, which acquired 15 percent of the blue chip last March.

The acquisition was made through unlisted SM Investments Corp., which said the SMC buy-in would broaden its portfolio of investments in the Philippines.

"San Miguel is an excellent company, with a proven track record of achievements. We are pleased to have made this acquisition and are confident that it is a good investment for us," SM Investments chair Henry Sy Sr. said.

Dutch financial giant ABN Amro was tapped by SM Investments as financial adviser for the transaction.

On the part of the SM group, it was the first time that it acquired a big block of shares in the country's biggest food and beverage conglomerate. To date, the SM group has interests in retailing (Shoemart Inc.), mall operations (SM Prime Holdings Inc.), gaming (Sage), leisure estate (Belle Corp. and Highlands Prime Inc.) and banking (Banco de Oro Universal Bank).

The buyout of the SMC stake held by SMC Retirement Fund will give SM Investments a seat in the conglomerate's 15-member board.

The transaction was also seen as a win-win deal for both SMC and the SM group.

SY

A&A Securities head of research Astro del Castillo said: "Henry Sy always makes a calculated investment to protect and expand its business. SMC is a good candidate given that it's starting to come out of the woods in terms of financial prospects and is starting to break free from the long-standing stigma of sequestration."

Ownership of a big block of shares in SMC, which was among the investments funded through the controversial coco levy, is still being contested by the Presidential Commission on Good Government, the coconut farmers and the group of SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

"It's a good investment and given that SM is focused on property development, expanding into consumer market could give more opportunities for its existing business," Castillo said. "Henry Sy also bought in at a perfect timing given the bear market and that SMC shares are attractive at this price level."

For its part, SMC can also benefit from better access to the SM group's nationwide mall operations, he added.

SMC, which posted P121 billion in sales in 2001, has interests in beer, hard liquor, soft drinks, packaging and feeds. It has embarked on an expansion binge in the last two years, gobbling up Sugarland Foods Corp., Pure Foods Corp., Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., J. Boag & Sons and, most recently, Cosmos Bottling Corp.

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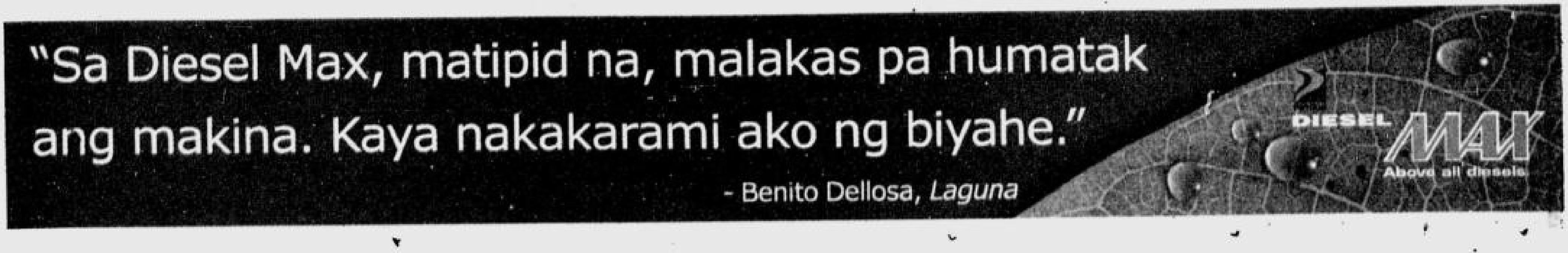

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- Benito Dellosa, *Laguna*

Camacho not keen on plans to raise export growth target

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he was not inclined to support an increase in the country's export growth target for this year from 4 percent to 10 percent, as planned by some sectors.

Camacho said he found the 10-percent growth target "very optimistic" although he admitted that the preliminary export numbers for August were looking better compared to last year.

"It will be great if we hit that (10-percent growth target) but for now, I think we should stick with the target that we have already revised earlier," said the finance secretary.

The government earlier revised the country's export growth target several months ago to 4 percent, from the expected flat growth. Last year, export receipts contracted by 15.7 percent mainly due to the softening of the global demand for electronics.

A 4-percent growth will bring export earnings this year to $33.437 billion. Earnings from merchandise exports in the first seven months of the year rose by 6.9 percent to $19.86 billion. In July alone, export receipts grew by 23 percent.

The export performance in the first seven months triggered optimism in the export industry that has started toying with the idea of again increasing the target for the year to 10 percent.

Even some economic managers were said to be inclined in upgrading the export target.

"I think the numbers are looking better than expected. I think even the August numbers are very encouraging," Camacho said.

He said the prospects seemed brighter with the US economy expected to do better in the coming months. Camacho quoted US Secretary of Treasury Paul O'Neill as saying, during a recent finance ministers meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, that the US economy would not go into a "double-dip" this year.

Camacho said the US official had said that the US economy would grow by 3 to 3.5 percent this year and would not go back into recession after a tentative recovery during the early part of 2002.

DTI urged to probe makers of substandard cement

A CONSUMER watchdog has asked the Bureau of Product Standards of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to look into the alleged proliferation of adulterated and substandard cement in the market.

The Movement for Consumer Power (MCP) said that it had received several complaints from consumers and retail outlets claiming "differences in the workability" of Portland cement manufactured by a manufacturer in Batangas and another in Bicol.

Lawyer Agnes Devanadera, MCP president, said the complaints had prompted them to report the matter to the DTI so that the agency could conduct its own inquiry.

"We have notified the BPS of the calls and concerns we have received," said Devanadera. "We have made inquiries from various sources and it was suggested that the two companies might be diluting their Portland cement with a steel waste product called slag."

"This looks like another case of a manufacturer 'watering down' their product to bring down costs at the expense of consumers," she said. "MCP has been monitoring various products for such abuses and cement is in our watch list."

"In the past, we have seen this done with LPG, with rice mixed with pebbles, vinegar and soy sauce and other condiments diluted with water," explains Devanadera.

Members of the cement industry earlier reported that their laboratory analyses yielded positive result on the presence of slag additives to the Portland cement produced by the two companies.

Slag is a waste product from the steel manufacturing (normally imported from Japan) that when added to Portland cement causes the loss of the cement's purity and results in changes in its workability, color and consistency of its performance.

Gordon asks Fil-Ams in US to invest in RP

SAN FRANCISCO, California—Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon urged Filipino-American businessmen in the United States to invest in the Philippines.

Gordon made the call at the business forum of the 1st Global Filipino Networking Conference held here at the Moscone Center.

Gordon credited President Macapagal-Arroyo, the country's chief economic manager, for her strong emphasis on ensuring the country's economic stability and the peace and order situation as the main factors that kept the economy resilient to global economic slowdown.

"All our economic indicators point to a very positive outlook for the Philippines," Gordon told the Fil-Am community there.

Gordon was in the United States as head of the 10-city and 18-day road show and sales mission in North America to promote the Department of Tourism's Volunteer 12 program and "Visit Philippines 2003."

The tourism chief pointed out that since the Macapagal administration took over last year, the country's economy grew by 4.6 percent, the highest in Southeast Asia and third in Asia. Gordon also told the Fil-Am community that the country's single-digit inflation rate was another reason that should encourage them to do business in the Philippines.

Gordon also informed the Fil-Am community in San Francisco that American multinational companies like Intel and America-On-Line (AOL) have long established their businesses in the Philippines and have capitalized on the country's highly skilled and technology-savvy labor force.

GOINGS-ON

Business in sports

SAN Miguel Corp. is sponsoring a series of lectures, dubbed "Sports Marketing: It's a Brand New Game-Educating the Next Generation of Sports Marketers and Leaders," on Sept. 23-24 by American sports marketing guru Rick Burton.

The Sept. 23 lecture, to be held from 3-5 p.m. at the De La Salle University-Professional Schools Inc. at the RCBC Plaza, will be open free of charge to business-marketing students who register with coachcom.inc, the newly formed business and sports consulting firm of Coca-Cola Tigers coach Chot Reyes that also made Burton's visit possible.

The second-day lecture, to be sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission, is exclusive to select members of the PSC, Philippine Olympic Committee and other national sports associations.

Burton, who is the executive director of the Warsaw Sports Marketing Center at the University of Oregon, is an award-winning teacher, public speaker, print columnist, radio commentator and TV show host.

The lectures will cover the following topics: the importance and essentials of effective sports marketing, strategic approach to marketing sports properties and career opportunities in the sports marketing industry in Asia and the United States.

10th PR Congress

PROMOTING foreign investments, people power in business and the marketing perspective in tourism are among the topics to be tackled at the forthcoming 10th National PR Congress of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP).

The congress, with the theme "Corporate Responsibility and Sustainable Development," will be held on Sept. 26-27 at the Garden Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

PRSP president Winston A. Marbella will conduct a hands-on seminar on "Crisis Management: Rebuilding the Corporate Reputation after the Crisis is Over" on Sept. 25 at the same venue.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. will discuss the "Magna Carta of Business" while Bayani Fernando, Metro Manila Development Authority chair, will touch on "Promoting the Environment through PR."

Ding Roco, external affairs manager of Shell Exploration Philippines, will show how his company led the way to sustainable development.

"Debate" host and former Cabinet member Solita C. Monsod will talk on the economic prospects.

Cesar Purisima, SGV & Co. chair, will share his views on good governance.

Other speakers and their topics are: JJ Calero, chair of ZMG Signium Ward Howell, on "Values-building Ethics in PR"; Marilou Erni, executive director of Petron Foundation, "Volunteerism: People Power in Business"; George Farah, managing director of Philip Morris Philippines Inc., "Special Advocacy"; Joseph Alleva, chief executive officer of Online Brands, "Effective Networking Through On-line PR"; lawyer Florecita Flores, director general of Philippine Chambers of Commerce and Industry, "Handling Government Stakeholders"; and Singapore-based Michael Law, president of Ogilvy PR Worldwide, "Brand Philippines: The PR and Marketing Perspective."

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FOR BIG CONSUMERS

Napocor, power firms sign discounted rate pact

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PEREZ

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy yesterday said that state firm National Power Corp. signed a memorandum of agreement with several distribution utilities and electric cooperatives for an expanded implementation of a pricing incentive program for bulk electricity users.

In a statement, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said the Special Pricing to Enhance Electricity Demand (Speed) program would give qualified electricity users fixed discounts of 80 centavos per kilowatt-hour in Luzon and 70 centavos per kWh in the Visayas.

Perez said that since power rates in Mindanao were already the lowest among the power grids, Napocor would offer a 10-centavo discount.

He explained that the first phase of the program would cover industrial and commercial consumers with a minimum monthly demand of 1,000 kilowatts. The second phase would accommodate consumers with a minimum monthly demand of 500 kW.

"Our estimates show that some 80 large industrial and commercial users nationwide would benefit from the Speed program," Perez said.

The official said the establishments included feed mills, beverage and bottling plants, shopping malls, fertilizer manufacturing plants, food processors and software manufacturing plants.

The discount scheme—a joint initiative of the DOE and the Department of Trade and Industry—was originally intended for about 650 large customers of Manila Electric Co.

Meralco's franchise area covers Metro Manila, Bulacan, Rizal, Cavite, Batangas and parts of Quezon and Pampanga.

"After (announcing) the program last July, there has been a strong clamor among large electricity users in the provinces for them to enjoy the same benefits," Perez said.

He noted that the Speed program was part of the government's 10-point plan to make electricity more affordable.

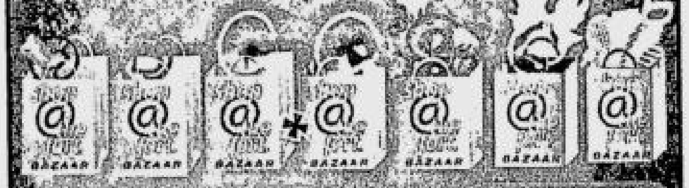
Distribution utilities that signed the MOA included Meralco, Angeles Electric Corp., Cabanatuan Electric Corp., Cagayan Electric Power & Light Co., Dagupan Electric Corp., Iligan Light & Power Inc., La Union Electric, Tarlac Electric Inc., San Fernando Electric Light and Power Co. and Visayan Electric Co.

A number of smaller distributors led by Cebu Electric Cooperative signed a separate MOA with Napocor.

Under the MOAs, the distributors are required to pass on wholly the Napocor discount rate to their customers. Power bought by utilities from their own independent power producers will not carry any discount.

To do this, the distributors would implement a parallel program called Speed-rider.

The Speed program would take effect upon approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission until September 2004, or upon the full implementation of the wholesale electricity spot market, or until such time when there is still available unused generating capacity in a particular power grid.



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Smart in hot water over 'Pure Text 100' cards

By Abigail L. Ho

SUBSCRIBERS of Smart Communications Inc. are complaining that the mobile phone firm's new offering—the "Pure Text 100" card—has reduced their state-of-the-art cellular phones into old-fashioned pagers.

Smart's new prepaid card prevents users from receiving incoming calls, although they can still send and receive "text messages," prompting hundreds of irate subscribers to file complaints with the National Telecommunications Commission.

Telecom regulators have already asked Smart to explain in writing how exactly the new service works, NTC common carriers authorization department head Edgardo Cabarios said in an interview yesterday.

Several complaints have been circulating through email for around two weeks now that Smart's television ads for its "Pure Text 100" card are "misleading."

Consumer advocacy group TXTPower even called the new product "evil," as it totally paralyzed a Smart subscriber's voice call service upon loading.

"It transforms your cell phone into a pager. Smart came out with deceptive ads, and it wasn't clearly stated in the terms and conditions written at the back of the cards that subscribers would no longer be able to receive calls once they load value from Pure Text 100 cards," TXTPower spokesperson Anthony Ian Cruz told the INQUIRER.

Smart's public affairs head, Ramon Isberto, clarified, however, that print ads and flyers explicitly stated, in Filipino even, that voice service would be completely suspended should a subscriber use a "Pure Text 100" card.

He added that it was explicitly written at the back of a "Pure Text 100" card that "this card is for text messaging only."

"This product is actually just a transition card that is designed for a specific niche market: people who are facing temporary cash difficulties. We also designed this to help subscribers not lose their SIM (subscriber identification module) cards because their SIM cards die if they don't reload money into their accounts within 120 days after reaching zero-balance," he said in an interview yesterday.

Telecom firms seek staggered payment of fees

By Abigail L. Ho

HUGE losses have driven some telecom companies to ask the National Telecommunications Commission for a staggered payment scheme for millions of pesos in supervision and regulatory fees that they are mandated to pay every year.

In a letter to NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr., Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Corp. cited huge losses, as well as its large amount of debts, as its reasons for wanting to pay the fees on a one-year installment basis.

Under the Public Service Act, local telecommunications firms have to pay 50 centavos for every P100 of paid capital that they sink into their businesses on or before Sept. 30 of every year.

If they fail to meet this deadline, even by just one day, they will have to pay the whole amount plus half of this total as penalty.

Rio explained that as much as the NTC wanted to help cash-strapped companies, its "hands are tied" as it was the law that required them to pay huge penalties for missing the deadline.

If a firm pays only part of the amount on or before the deadline, fines will still be incurred for the balance.

"Our actions are limited by law. Unless we can bring it to the attention of the (Department of Transportation and Communications) for policy guidelines and we can get an opinion from the (Department of Justice) that the penalty can be waived, we can't really do anything much," he said in an interview yesterday.

From tires to Barbie dolls, firm shows marketing magic

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SUCCESS STORY

RICHWELL Trading Corp. has spent years trying to become the biggest distributor of Goodyear tires in the Philippines, and in 1979, it achieved its dream. But Myrna Yao was not content. She wanted to chase other dreams.

It was then that she thought about diversifying Richwell's business and going into something totally different from tires—children's toys.

"At that time, I felt like we have already reached our peak in the tire business. There was no more growth, so because I really liked children, I thought of doing something that had to do with children, like toys," she said.

She looked around the market, and she learned that giant toy company Mattel was setting aside 30 percent of its production for the local market, but it had not tapped the retail scene.

"They said they had no plans yet to sell locally at that time, so I just left word with them that if ever they planned to eventually distribute their products locally, we can do it for them," she said.

The time came in 1982 when Mattel, maker of the famous Barbie doll, announced that it would tap the local market.

Richwell, which started with only P5,000 in capital, pitted itself against big department stores for the right to distribute Mattel products, and by some twist of fate it bagged the contract.

"I believe that what we had going for us was our experience in distribution. The competition was really tough, but we were able to convince them that we could do it," she said.

Yao was one of only two employees that worked for the toy distribution business, and she would drive around her van to get and deliver orders. She would also commute just to meet as many commitments as she could.

A year later, Richwell was starting to regret its decision to chase after the Mattel contract as sales were down, and there was a market perception that toys were only good for Christmas or special occasions.

Department stores were only willing to buy three or six pieces of its products and were kept in the back shelf.

Yao, however, dug deep into her marketing experience and came up with marketing gimmicks such as free notebooks or sales incentives to perk up interest in Barbie dolls.

"We were the first ones to advertise our toys on TV, and we got into different promotions and marketing activities to drum up interest in our products. We also gave discounts to the retailers so that they would buy more products," she said.

Richwell experienced a tough toy market up to 1986, but things started to turn around after the Edsa revolution when Filipinos became more aware of things American and, consequently, the Barbie doll.

"We also introduced licensing in 1989, and we put up the first Barbie boutique in SM Makati in 1989, it was the first in the world," she said.

THE GARFIELD Store in Glorietta is the first of its kind in Asia, marking the latest venture of Richwell Trading Corp.

The store also came at a time when Mattel left its operations in the Philippines because of pilferage and labor problems. Richwell took over with Mattel's blessings since the local company had become one of the biggest in Asia for the American toy company.

From the Barbie doll, Richwell diversified into other products after it established its experience in the toy distribution market. Today, it markets 21 brands that include Hotwheels, Tyco Toys, Sesame Street, Matchbox, V-Tech Educational Toys, Bubblegummers and Shelcore.

One of its latest ventures is the distribution of Garfield products. It opened its first Garfield retail shop in Glorietta, the first in Asia, and plans to open up more in other malls.

The 9-sq.m. Garfield store sells all things Garfield from clothes to plush toys. Just like for its other characters, it wants to create a relationship between the Filipinos and the famous cat. The store even shows Garfield's bedroom.

"Our challenge has also always been how to be creative and we strive to maintain quality. We are being guided by international standards. We even send some of our workers for training to Hong Kong and Singapore," she said.

Richwell is now into its 20th year in the business, and the Yaos attribute the success also to divine intervention and to the combination of marketing savvy and quality products.

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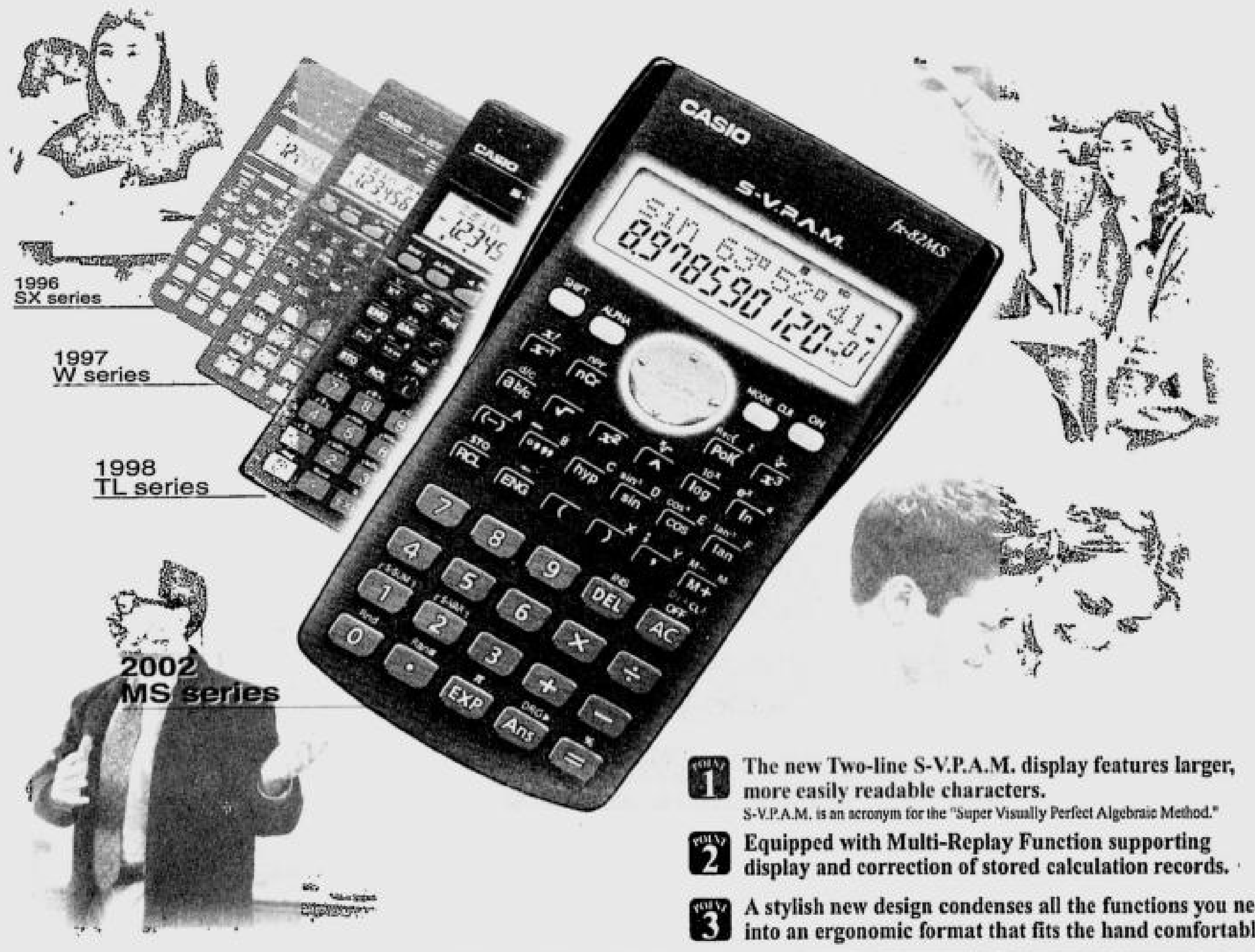

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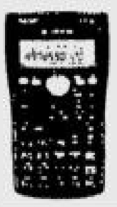

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fx-350MS (Button Battery)
fx-85MS (Two way power)
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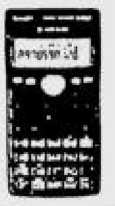

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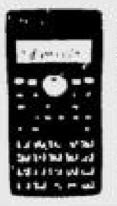

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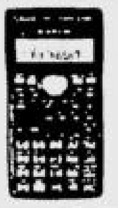

fx-570MS (Button Battery)
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BPI execs face contempt raps over news leaks

CEBU CITY—Two top executives and a lawyer of the Bank of Philippine Islands are facing charges of indirect contempt for allegedly leaking information questioning a lower court's decision approving the rehabilitation of a Cebu-based seaweed firm.

In a petition, Shemberg Biotech Corp. asked Cebu Regional Trial Court Judge Isaias Dicdican to cite BPI president Xavier Loinaz, vice president Macario Navia Jr. and counsel Francisco Diy Yap for indirect contempt.

In a motion dated Sept. 6, Shemberg alleged that the three supplied "distorted information" to the INQUIRER that "were clearly fashioned to put the court in a bad light."

Shemberg said the respondents made it "appear that the court had trampled upon and disregarded the rights of BPI with impunity."

According to the INQUIRER story published on Aug. 20, BPI filed before the Court of Appeals a petition for certiorari and temporary restraining order against Dicdican for ordering the rehabilitation of Shemberg without the consent of its creditors.

BPI, in its petition, said Dicdican violated the Rules on Corporate Rehabilitation, as promulgated by the Supreme Court when he approved Shemberg's rehabilitation plan.

The INQUIRER story quoted BPI as saying the decision was "erroneous, confiscatory and violative of its constitutional rights."

In its motion, Shemberg said "the news releases published by respondents were clearly fashioned to influence the proceedings in the pending controversy and to degrade the integrity and authority of the court." *Irene R. Sino-Cruz, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Everflow covered by CDO, SEC says

SECURITIES regulators yesterday advised the public against the Everflow group of companies.

The Securities and Exchange Commission reiterated that it issued a cease-and-desist order against the group and other conduits of Multinational Telecoms Investors Corp. as early as January for illegally selling securities.

SEC compliance and enforcement department director Jose Tomas Syquia confirmed that the Everflow group was among those covered by the CDO.

In that order, the SEC directed Multitel and its conduits and agents to immediately stop accepting investments from the public.

SEC officials, however, said last month that Everflow was still enticing investors to place their money with the company by offering high monthly interest ranging from 10 to 15 percent.

Based on SEC records, Everflow is not licensed to engage in the sale of securities or investment contracts by accepting placements. *Elena R. Torrijos*

SEC asks AMLC to unfreeze Glasgow assets

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission requested yesterday the Anti-Money Laundering Council to unfreeze the bank deposits of Glasgow Credit and Collection Services Inc. to return at least P843 million placed by over 9,000 investors with the alleged pseudo-investment firm.

It is uncertain, however, if the investors can get all their money back, as SEC Chair Lilia Bautista earlier disclosed that the amount frozen seemed to be much less than the total claims.

SEC compliance and enforcement director Jose Tomas Syquia said based on filings by Glasgow investors with his office, the total amount of validated outstanding claims—the original investment less interest payments—was P843 million, but this would be P1 billion if unvalidated claims were included.

This was the amount that should be returned based on the SEC's request filed with the AMLC, Syquia said, but it would be up to the council to decide the details of repayment.

The SEC earlier issued a cease-and-desist order against Glasgow for selling investment contracts or securities without a license by offering as much as 15 percent monthly interest on six-month money placements between P10,000 to P50,000.

The SEC noted that Glasgow's articles of incorporation allowed the company to engage in credit and collection and not in the sale of investment contracts.

Based on records of the SEC, Glasgow had been able to collect P1.2 billion from investors and had made some interest payments on this amount before the CDO was issued.

In line with the complaints against Glasgow, the AMLC froze the company's deposits in five banks.

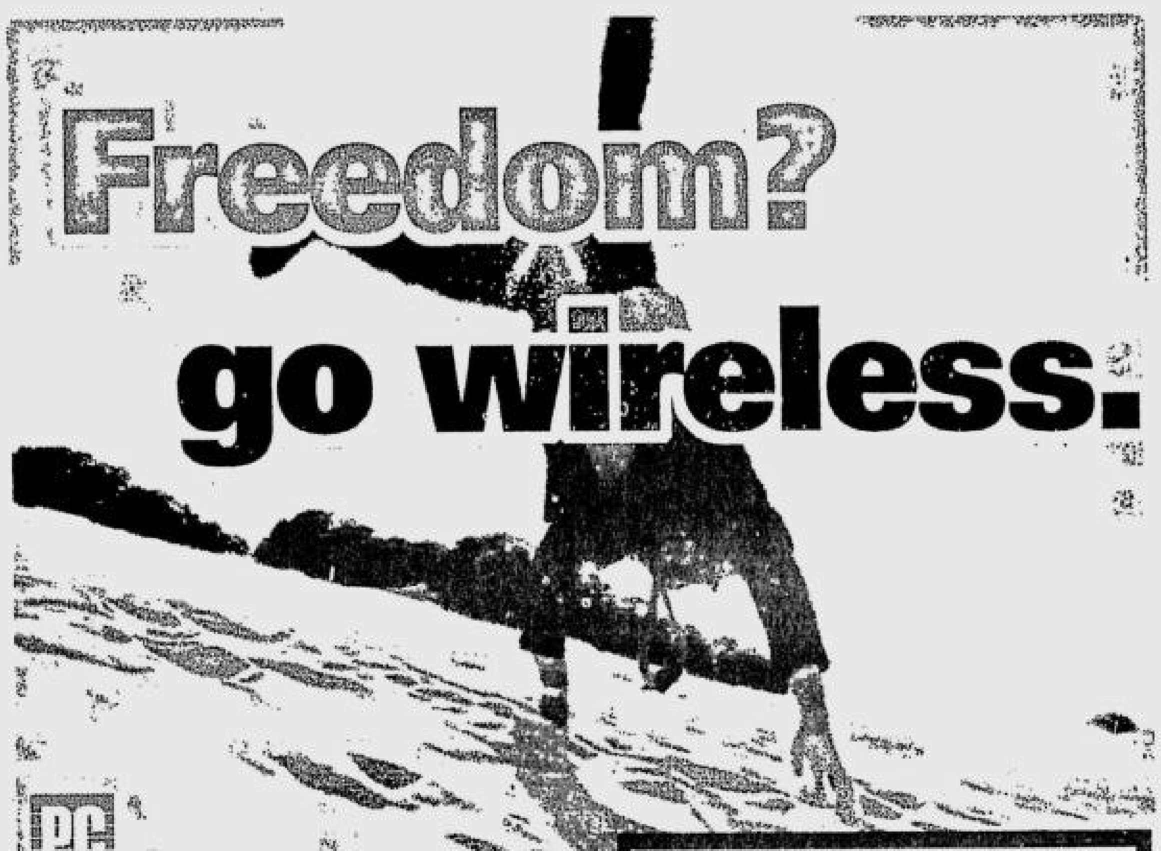
Glasgow's incorporators are Radicion Baldia, Jenilyn Condes, Jonathan Condes, Roldan Estacio and Manuel Roldan Jr.

Glasgow was among a number of companies that were reportedly running "pyramiding scams" that included among its alleged victims more than a thousand police and military officials.

Last month, persons familiar with the matter said at least 19 police generals were among those reportedly swindled by a company called Exsior Enterprises, whose investors included Director Nestorio Gualberto of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Chief Supt. Rolando Sacramento of the Eastern Police District, Marcelo Ele Jr. of the Aviation Security Group and Arturo Lumibao of Region 1.

Also in the list were Chief Superintendents Raymundo Logan, Glenn Rabonza, Renato Paredes, Rogelio Bathan, Enrique Galang Jr., Dante Tejada, Marcelo Navarro Jr., Alfredo de Vera, Domingo Reyes Jr., George Ancheta, Fernando Vinculado, Generoso Necesito, Donato Gonzales, and Rosendo Abinoja Jr.

An official who asked not to be named said the CIDG had been inundated with complaints from police and military officers and civilians following reports that Exsior owner Ferdinand Sison had flown to the United States on July 31.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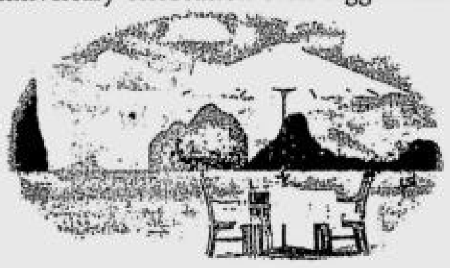

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FOREIGN EXPANSION

ICTSI unit gets $50-M loan

By Doris C. Dumlao

A UNIT of port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. has obtained a $50-million loan from US-based Credit Suisse First Boston International to fund the group's fresh foreign expansion.

ICTSI yesterday disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange that its subsidiary, ICTSI Ltd., has finalized the credit facility and that it would guarantee the new loan.

"The facility is intended to be used to fund foreign port projects that ICTSI Ltd. is pursuing," the disclosure said.

After the sale of its overseas subsidiary ICTSI Holdings Corp. (IIHC) to a unit of the Hutchison group of Hong Kong, ICTSI is back to square one as far as foreign expansion was concerned.

ICTSI, which operates the Manila International Container Terminal, recently started operating a 30-year port concession at the Port of Suape in Brazil. ICTSI has committed to invest $60 million in this new project over the concession period.

ICTSI is likewise considering to bid for port terminal operations in three Asia-Pacific locations—Guam, Papua New Guinea, and Indonesia.

Its flagship MICT is seen to sustain a volume growth of more than 8 percent this semester from a year ago on the back of the strong rebound in Philippine imports and exports.

Recently, ICTSI launched a new six-hectare empty container depot at MICT to take advantage of increasing port business compared to the flat activity seen last year. For the first six months of 2002, volume at the MICT expanded by 8 percent from 443,933 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) to 479,457 TEUs following a 14-percent expansion in the second quarter.

Veterans Bank nets ₱107M, lists expansion plans

PHILIPPINE Veterans Bank (PVB) said it managed to sustain its growth and profitability, posting a net income of P107 million as of August despite narrower interest margin.

Total assets of the bank increased from P13.16 billion in 2001 to P13.21 billion in 2002. PVB's loan portfolio also increased from P3.67 billion in 2001 to P3.99 billion in 2002, reflecting what the bank said was its cautious stance in building up risk assets portfolio.

Capital funds, which had been increasing through the retention of the bulk of profits earned from operations, stood at P3.81 billion.

PVB said it initiated a P122-million investment in information technology with the acquisition of an integrated banking system at the start of this year.

It said it was also undertaking full user acceptance tests to ascertain a successful implementation of the financial modules by November, and roll out to all its 43 branches nationwide its deposit modules (savings, current and term accounts) not later than the 1st quarter of 2003.

These will allow the bank to have a multi-currency accounting system and state-of-the-art deposit system complete with computerized pictures and signatures of clients accessed online anywhere in its network of branches, the bank said.

It said the comprehensive loans and treasury modules would start implementation activities and be available bank-wide by the 2nd quarter of 2003. "These initiatives aim to strengthen operations and facilitate introduction of more and new product lines to the bank's clients in both the government and private sectors," PVB said.

PVB also recently entered into a memorandum of understanding with ePLDT and the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) to undertake an innovative service using interactive terminals or point-of-sale terminals.

These will act as ATMs installed at participating rural banks all over the country, a first in the local banking industry, the bank said.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

September 11, 2002

REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 12-2002

SUBJECT : **Regulations Providing for the Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines in the Implementation of the Voluntary Assessment and Abatement Program (VAAP) for Taxpayers with Underdeclared Sales/Receipts/Income for the Calendar and Fiscal Years 2000, and 2001, and the First and Second Quarter ending June 30, 2002, Pursuant to the RELIEF Program of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and the Consequences for Non-Availment Thereof.**

TO : **All Internal Revenue Officers and Others Concerned.**

POLICY STATEMENT

The Reconciliation for Listing and Enforcement (RELIEF) System together with the Integrated Tax System (ITS) is now generating firm and precise data on sales underdeclarations. The data show that many taxpayers have not been paying the correct VAT, Income and other taxes to the government.

Using the data generated by the system, criminal cases were filed against an initial batch of taxpayers even as the criminal complaints against the others are being prepared for filing. In the meantime, RELIEF is continuing to uncover many more underdeclarations as the coverage of the matchings and reconciliations is expanded to other return periods and as many other sources of third party information are connected to the system network.

With the objective of making RELIEF immediately contribute to this year's collections, an integrated system for matching and reconciliation of underdeclarations generated by the system must now be set in place.

Since RELIEF has already been partly automated and some matchings and reconciliations are already a fully automated process, an integrated system for handling the output is needed.

These Revenue Regulations prescribe the business rules and the processes for the integrated handling of underdeclarations generated by the RELIEF System.

The policy is to treat and handle past underdeclarations differently from those that will be committed beginning the third quarter of 2002. Underdeclarations for the second quarter of 2002 and prior quarters generated by the RELIEF System shall be entitled to a Voluntary Assessment and Abatement Program (VAAP) described in detail herein.

Underdeclarations in the third quarter 2002 returns and succeeding quarters shall no longer be entitled to this Program but shall be subject to the full force of the law.

SECTION 1. DURATION OF THE VAAP. –

(a) Applications for VAAP Availment and corresponding payments thereon in response to BIR Letter Notice as described in Section 4 hereof must be received on or before the deadlines prescribed in said Letter Notice.

(b) Applications for VAAP Availment and corresponding payments thereon by taxpayers who have not received any BIR Letter Notice as described in Section 6 hereof must be received not later than 15 November 2002.

SEC. 2. SCOPE. – Pursuant to Section 244 in relation to Sections 6, 115, 204, 254, 256 and other pertinent provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 (Code), these Regulations are hereby promulgated to provide for the policies, procedures, and guidelines in the implementation of VAAP for taxpayers with underdeclared sales/receipts/income for the taxable years 2000, 2001, and the first and second quarters of 2002 that were or will be subsequently discovered under the RELIEF System as well as under this Program and for similarly situated taxpayers as provided in these Regulations.

SEC. 3. COVERAGE. – These Regulations shall cover the following:

A. *Persons.* – Any person, natural or juridical, subject to income tax under Title II, value-added tax (VAT) under Title IV, and excise tax under Title VI, if applicable, of the Code who has underreported his/her/its sales/receipts/income of taxable base;

B. *Taxes.* – VAT, income tax, and excise tax due; if any, from the underdeclared sales/receipts/income, and

C. *Taxable Periods Covered.* –
  (1) *Income tax.* – Calendar and fiscal year 2000 and 2001;
  (2) *Value-added tax.* – Taxable quarters beginning January 1, 2000 up to taxable quarter ending June 30, 2002; and
  (3) *Excise tax.* – Taxable quarters beginning January 1, 2000 up to taxable quarter ending June 30, 2002.

SEC. 4. LETTER NOTICE. – A person found to have under-reported sales/receipts per data generated by RELIEF System shall be sent a Letter Notice detailing the amounts involved and what the Bureau requires from the person. The letter shall include, to the extent feasible and practicable, the following directives:

1. Payment before the deadline set of the Minimum Amounts Payable for VAT, Income Tax and Excise Tax, if any, referred to in 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 hereof, respectively, in relation to the sales underdeclaration;
2. Submission before the deadline set of the prescribed VAAP Application Form (VAAP-AF) for years 2000, 2001 and the first and second quarters of year 2002; and
3. Payment before the deadline set of the appropriate tax payable referred to in 5.4, 5.5, and 5.6 hereof.

Above payments must be made using a VAAP Payment Form (VAAP-PF) while the submissions must conform to the format of the VAAP Application Form (VAAP-PF) both of which shall be prescribed in a Revenue Memorandum Order to be issued.

SEC. 5. COMPUTATION OF AMOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEADLINES. –

5.1 *VAT Minimum Amount Payable.* – With the figure for total sales/receipts discrepancy stated in the Letter Notice as the base, the minimum amount that must be paid shall be 3% for seller of goods and 6% for seller of services, respectively;

5.2 *Income Tax Minimum Amount Payable.* – The minimum amount that must be paid shall be 2% of the total sales/receipts discrepancy stated in the Letter Notice;

5.3 *Excise Tax Minimum Amount Payable.* – For taxpayers subject to excise tax, the minimum amount that must be paid shall be 2% of the total sales discrepancy stated in the Letter Notice;

5.4 *VAT Payable.* – Taking the submissions (VAAP-AF) made pursuant to the Letter Notice, the VAT payable shall be determined as follows: 110% of the basic tax due on (A) total adjusted sales consisting of (1) sales declared per returns, plus (2) sales discrepancy stated in the Letter Notice, if any, plus (3) voluntary disclosure of underdeclared sales, (B) multiplied by 1/11, (C) less input taxes. It is equal to the minimum amount in 5.1 if said minimum amount is greater than or equal to 110% of basic tax due;

5.5 *Income Tax Payable.* – Taking the submissions made pursuant to the Letter Notice, the income tax payable shall be determined as follows: 110% of the basic tax due on (A) total adjusted sales consisting of (1) sales declared per returns, plus (2) sales discrepancy stated in the Letter Notice, if any, plus (3) voluntary disclosure of underdeclared sales, (B) less allowable deductions, (C) multiplied by income tax rate. It is equal to the minimum amount in 5.2 if said minimum amount is greater than or equal to 110% of basic tax due;

5.6 *Excise Tax Payable.* – Taking the submissions (VAAP-AF) made pursuant to the letter notice, the excise tax payable shall be 110% of the basic tax due on the tax base. It is equal to the minimum amount in 5.3 if said minimum amount is greater than or equal to 110% of basic tax due;

5.7 *Basic tax.* – As used herein, basic tax shall be equal to Tax Due less VAT/Income Tax/Excise Tax paid in the original return.

5.8 *Deadlines.* – Payment of the minimum amounts described in 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 shall be 30 days from date of Letter Notice. Payments of taxes Payable (if any) as described in 5.4, 5.5, and 5.6 shall be 45 days from the date of letter;

5.9 *Abatement of Penalties.* – Payment of the above amounts shall constitute an abatement or cancellation of penalties, and shall therefore be in lieu of surcharge, interest and penalties otherwise due on the deficiency taxes payable by the taxpayer, subject to Section 8 hereof.

SEC. 6. TAXPAYERS WITHOUT LETTER NOTICE AVAILING OF VAAP. – Taxpayers who wish to avail of this program but have not received the Letter Notice described in Section 4 must make submissions and payments required hereunder using the VAAP-PF and VAAP-AF Forms. The amount payable shall be 110% of the basic tax as defined in Subsection 5.7 hereof. The submission and payments must be made on or before 15 November 2002.

SEC. 7. FAILURE TO AVAIL OF VAAP. – In case the taxpayer fails or refuses to avail of the VAAP for any of the taxable periods covered by these Regulations within the period prescribed in the Letter Notice or the general deadline for VAAP availment which is 15 November 2002, as the case may be, the BIR shall institute such criminal or administrative actions as may be authorized under the Code, specifically, closure, criminal actions, or audit and investigation, depending on the extent of underdeclaration.

SEC. 8 INCORRECT SUBMISSION RESULTING IN ADDITIONAL DISCREPANCIES. –

8.1 Notwithstanding the taxpayer's payment of the amounts referred to in Section 5 or 6, should the Bureau discover additional discrepancy through the RELIEF System and the ITS as well as through other processes, where the additional sales discovered exceed the amount voluntarily disclosed by 10% or P1,000,000, whichever is lower, the availment of VAAP for each of the tax type and taxable period covered by the availment shall be considered null and void and the entire underdeclaration shall be subjected to the full force of the law;

8.2 Likewise, should the Bureau discover through the RELIEF System and the ITS as well as through other processes, overstatement in purchases or cost by more than 10% or P1,000,000, whichever is lower, of what has been voluntarily disclosed in the VAAP-AF, the VAAP availment for each of tax type and taxable period covered by the availment shall be considered null and void and the entire underdeclaration shall be subjected to the full force of the law;

8.3 Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the discrepancy discovered is equal to or less than the threshold amounts prescribed above, the VAAP availment shall remain valid, provided that payment of appropriate additional tax in accordance with Section 5 or Section 6 hereof is made on the additional discrepancy.

SEC. 9. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – The provisions of these Regulations shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation. However, to afford taxpayers more time to prepare the payments and submissions described in these Regulations, the Letter Notices may be sent out even before the publication required herein.

JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary of Finance

Recommending Approval:

GUILLERMO L. PARAYNO, JR.
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

September 13, 2002 – Inquirer

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, September 12, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Sun Life Financial Serv.	900	905	900	905	1,900
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	18	18	5,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48.5	47	47.5	717,400
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	10,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29	28.5	28.5	76,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34.5	34	34.5	165,100
Philippine National Bank	31	31	31	31	7,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	19.25	19.25	19	19.25	146,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	190	190	190	190	550
Manulife Financial Corp.	1170	1170	1170	1170	30
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.25	16,700
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	2,230,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	525	525	520	520	730
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.027	0.029	0.027	0.029	600,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	2.8	3	19,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	297.5	300	295	297.5	122,760
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	41,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	7,800
Manila Electric Co. B	31	31	31	31	30,700
Petron Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	917,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	522,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	90,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	120,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	150,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31	31	31	31	9,000
RFM Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	210,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49.5	50	49.5	50	251,800
San Miguel Corp. B	54	54.5	54	54.5	261,800
Universal Robina Corp.	4	4	3.9	4	968,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.39	0.43	0.39	0.43	80,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.38	0.43	0.38	0.43	150,000
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	264,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.42	2.44	2.42	2.44	306,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.18	0.19	630,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	3,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,800,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	87,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	14.25	14.25	14	14.25	428,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.07	0.07	2,200,000
Ionics Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	469,740,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	500,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	50,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	500,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.39	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	360,000
Music Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	220,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	160,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.5	5	4.5	5	25,000
Matsushita Elec. Phil. Corp.	6	6	6	6	5,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	120,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	41,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6	5.9	6	1,593,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,840,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	1,110,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.1	5,578,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,500,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	2,808,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	73,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	450,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	200,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	4,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	80,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	500,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,131,180	46,925,275.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	706,752,090	10,360,324,520.00
PRO	15,449,000	32,453,670.00
Mining	25,723,000	310,900.00
OIL	4,680,000	164,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	753,735,270	10,440,178,365.00
AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	454.24	DOWN 4.83
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,559.56	DOWN 9.44
PRO	524.39	DOWN 0.07
Mining	1,159.74	DOWN 2.23
OIL	1.37	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	637.70	UP 2.16
Composite	1,145.43	DOWN 7.98

NO. OF ADVANCES: 21; NO. OF DECLINES: 22; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 80; NO. OF TRADES: 1,095

DISCLOSURES

GLOBAL Business Bank Inc. disclosed that the Securities and Exchange Commission has approved the amendments in its articles of incorporation that include a change in its name to **Global Business Holdings Inc.**, change in its primary purpose to that of a holding company and the reduction in the number of its directors from 15 to 11.

* * *

ALLIED Banking Corp. announced the resignation of Arlene Guevarra as corporate secretary and the subsequent election of Cecilia Pesayco to the vacated position.

* * *

METROPOLITAN Bank & Trust Co. announced the resignation of Antonio Viray as director of the bank.

* * *

CROWN Equities Inc. disclosed the resignation of Romuald Dy Tang as director of the company.

* * *

APPOINTED compliance officer of **Negros Navigation Co. Inc.** was Virgenito Torcal.

* * *

A. BROWN Co. Inc. bought 10,000 of its own shares at P0.50 per share.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

Sept. 12, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.024275	1.000000	51.9940
Japan	Yen	0.008516	0.008314	0.4323
United Kingdom	Pound	1.591621	1.553900	80.7935
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.131320	0.128208	6.6660
Switzerland	Franc	0.682441	0.666267	34.6419
Canada	Dollar	0.648604	0.633232	32.9243
Singapore	Dollar	0.582802	0.568990	29.5841
Australia	Dollar	0.560878	0.547585	28.4711
Bahrain	Dinar	2.717055	2.652661	137.9225
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.273133	0.266660	13.8647
Brunei	Dollar	0.581149	0.567376	29.5001
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000116	0.000113	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024118	0.023546	1.2243
UAE	Dirham	0.278881	0.272272	14.1565
Korea	Won	0.000853	0.000833	0.0433
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.976300	50.7617
Argentina	Real	0.284521	0.277778	14.4428
Brazil	Real	0.329561	0.321750	16.7291
Denmark	Kroner	0.134534	0.131346	6.8292
India	Rupee	0.021172	0.020670	1.0747
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.269582	0.263193	13.6845
Mexico	New Peso	0.102664	0.100231	5.2114
New Zealand	Dollar	0.482034	0.470510	24.4637
Norway	Kroner	0.135227	0.132022	6.8644
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017331	0.016920	0.8797
South Africa	Rand	0.097129	0.094827	4.9304
Sweden	Kroner	0.109069	0.106484	5.5365
Syria	Pound	0.023173	0.022624	1.1763
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029880	0.029172	1.5168
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000687	0.000671	0.0349

Are surgeons employees of hospitals?

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

WHILE there are surely a lot of competent and ethical doctors, there is a current public outrage against medical malpractices, leading to a House bill seeking to strengthen government regulations of doctors' and hospitals' negligence in their treatment of patients, and imposing more punitive sanctions against professional irresponsibility among medical practitioners.

Apropos to this upsurge of public outcry is the crucial issue of employer-employee relationship between the hospitals, and the surgeons and anesthesiologists who are held guilty of reckless imprudence in conducting medical procedures in the said hospitals. Are medical centers liable for the fault or negligence of their medical teams whose irresponsible acts cause injuries to or death of patients?

Supreme Court ruling

Last April 11, 2002, the Supreme Court decided the case of Rogelio Ramos vs. Court of Appeals (GR 124354) granting almost P4 million in actual, moral and exemplary damages and attorney's fees to the husband and children of Erlinda Ramos, who died as a proximate result of the combined negligence of both surgeon and anesthesiologist. We regret, however, that the hospital was absolved from any liability.

Erlinda died after having been in comatose resulting from what the Supreme Court called the "act of professional negligence and professional irresponsibility of Drs. X and Y, surgeon and anesthesiologist, respectively. We disguise them to protect whatever remains of their professional reputation, if there is still any. The court declared: "The measures cautioning prudence and vigilance in dealing with human lives lie at the core of the physicians' centuries-old Hippocratic oath."

Surgeons, et al., not employees

What this column finds unfortunate, with all due respect, is the court's finding that hospitals are not liable supposedly because the doctors are not their employees. The earlier court ruling, based on Article 2180 of the Civil Code, finding employer-employee relationship was reconsidered upon the motion filed by the hospital.

The hallmarks of employment, based on the controlling four-fold test, supposedly do not exist in this case. First, the hospital does not hire the doctors, it only accredits the latter. Second, it is not the hospital but the patients who pay professional fees to doctors. Third, a hospital does not dismiss a doctor, he merely loses accreditation. And fourth, the hospital does not control the manner the doctors perform their professional tasks. We do not agree.

Professional irresponsibility

We concur however that both doctors were grossly remiss with their professional duties to Erlinda who was, at first, merely seeking professional medical help. She was told to undergo an operation to remove a stone in her gall bladder. She was referred to Dr. X, surgeon, who recommended Dr. Y, anesthesiologist. On the day of the operation in 1985, Erlinda was prepared for the operation as early as 7:30 a.m. She was made to wait in the operating room for more than three hours. Dr. X was late.

The court said: "The unreasonable delay in Erlinda's operation subjected her to continued starvation and xxx to the risk of acidosis or the condition of decreased alkalinity of the blood and tissues xxx headache, nausea and vomiting and visual disturbances. The long period xxx aggravated the anxiety xxx causes the outpouring of adrenaline, which in turn results in high blood pressure or disturbance in the heart rhythm. Erlinda suffered cardiac arrest, then became comatose.

Exceptional negligence

The original negligence was committed by the anesthesiologist, Dr. Y. "She failed to exercise the standards of care in the administration of anesthesia on a patient." The court stressed that "the conduct of a pre-anesthetic/preoperative evaluation is necessary xxx taking the patient's medical history, his current drug therapy, xxx conducting physical examination, interpreting laboratory data, xxx evaluating the patient's central nervous system, cardiovascular system and lungs xxx."

The facts show that Dr. Y "omitted to perform a thorough preoperative evaluation xxx. As she herself admitted, she saw Erlinda for the first time on the day of the operation itself, one hour before xxx she did not xxx examine the patient's airway." This was held by the highest court as "an act of exceptional negligence and professional irresponsibility."

Doctors' mortal errors

The Supreme Court discovered from the evidence that the bluish discoloration of Erlinda's skin was "caused by lack of oxygen or abnormal hemoglobin in the blood and the enlargement of the stomach xxx indicated that the endotracheal tube was improperly inserted into the esophagus instead of the trachea. Consequently, oxygen was delivered not to the lungs but to the gastro intestinal tract."

The court considered this the *coup d' grace*, the unkindest cut of all. Thus: "there was a decrease of blood supply to the patient's brain xxx temporarily deprived of oxygen supply causing Erlinda to go into coma." It was the court's conclusion then: "The inquiry xxx does not normally happen absent any negligence in the administration of anesthesia and in the use of endotracheal tube."

Witness to fatal flaws

Erlinda's death could have gone unsung if not for the vigilance of her sister-in-law who was allowed to observe the operation right inside the O.R. She was the dean of the hospital's school of nursing. Her testimony later established the facts upon which the court based its ruling against the doctors.

How about us who don't have access to the O.R.? Who shall testify against the gross irresponsibility of surgeons whose faces are covered by masks? If they leave scissors inside the stomachs of patients or infect the wounds with dirty instruments, who shall tell the court?

Therefore, I strongly submit that hospitals must be answerable based on the principle of command responsibility.

RP obtains $100-M loan from World Bank

THE PHILIPPINES and the World Bank signed yesterday a $100-million loan agreement for the Second Social Expenditure Management Project or SMP II which was aimed at improving the country's social services, a bank statement said.

The money will be used to finance improvements in education, health and social welfare and to support the government's school building program which is being implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways. Specifically, the project will increase the availability of textbooks, provide new and improved classrooms, and drugs for key public health programs. It will also support barangay-centered activities for social services in poor municipalities.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho signed the loan agreement with World Bank country director Robert Vance Pulley in Manila.

"This project clearly reflects the World Bank's focus on improving the quality and efficiency of basic education, public health and social services for the poor in the Philippines," Pulley said.

He said the loan would support the national budget for social services noting Manila's difficult fiscal position.

The SEMP II project is also aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector agencies through strengthened procurement and financial management, improved allocation and utilization of resources, improvements in the work environment of the relevant agencies and increased transparency, accountability and responsiveness through public expenditure tracking, the bank statement said.

The loan will be jointly implemented by the Departments of Education, Health, Social Welfare and Development, and Public Works and Highways under the oversight and support of the Department of Budget and Management.

The new project builds on the achievements of the first SEMP, also involving a $100-million loan, which had led to significant improvements in procurement and savings of up to 40 percent in the cost of textbooks desks and chairs. ***With a report from AFP***

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Stop crashing. Come to Shangri-La Makati on September 24, 2002 and find out why it's time to switch. Apple

You don't have to crash, you're invited to Switch to a Mac.

Program Schedule

Morning Registration	8:30 am-9:00 am	Rizal Ballroom foyer area
Plenary Session	9:00 am-11:30 am	Rizal Ballroom A,B & C
Afternoon Registration	12:30 pm-1:00 pm	Rizal Ballroom foyer area
Animate Now!	1:00 pm-4:30 pm	Rizal C Ballroom
Driven by Design	1:00 pm-4:30 pm	Rizal A Ballroom
Xserve Live!	1:00 pm-4:30 pm	Makati A & B Function Room
Perfectly Focused	1:00 pm-4:30 pm	Rizal B Ballroom
Closing Remarks & Lucky Draw	5:00 pm-5:30 pm	Rizal Ballroom foyer area

Find out why it's time to switch to a Mac. We'll start off by giving you 10 reasons to switch to a Mac and demonstrating the power inside the latest multiplatform, multimedia operating system, Mac OSX 10.2 Jaguar. You'll also learn more about the current developments in the multimedia world in our afternoon conferences:

Driven by Design by Aaron Tavakoli and Graham Perkins shows you new ways to expand your creativity with the many new features in the latest Adobe software, including PhotoShop 7.0, Illustrator 10, InDesign 2.0 GoLive 6.0 and LiveMotion 2.0

Animate Now! by Amy Quek demonstrates the most comprehensive and the most powerful 3D animation software for the Macintosh, Alias | Wavefront's Maya. We'll demonstrate the power behind some of Hollywood's biggest blockbusters.

Perfectly Focused by Ian Beattie, Joann Cordero Belen and Dennis Biela. Three experts tell you everything you need to know about digital imaging. From the basics of digital photography to editing your own videos and burning your own DVDs to streaming your videos on the web

Xserve Live! by Richard Ng, Ching Ping Lee, Steven Siau and Nick Tham. See Apple's newest server solution that works out of the box with all major platforms from UNIX to Windows. And get the latest updates on digital information management.

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Asian stock markets lie low ahead of Bush, Greenspan

SINGAPORE—Asian markets were in a holding pattern on Thursday as investors awaited US President George W. Bush's speech on Iraq at the United Nations and Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan's latest take on the US economy.

Stocks inched higher in thin trade, as investors breathed a sigh of relief the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks passed without incident, but pondered the sputtering recovery in the world's key economies.

The dollar dipped a bit after an overnight rally. Traders were skeptical about its outlook, given the uncertainties over the US economy and the potential for war against Iraq.

The oil and gold markets were also marking time, with traders expecting Bush to challenge the United Nations to take action to enforce its resolutions on Iraq or risk having the United States take action against President Saddam Hussein on it own. NYMEX crude prices held around $29.75 a barrel.

The markets are also keen to hear what Greenspan has to say to the House budget committee at 1400 GMT, just before Bush speaks to the United Nations.

"There's not a lot that Greenspan can add that's new to the market, but Bush can add a great deal," said Tony Brinker, equities director at ABVN AMRO in Sydney. "His tone, his intonation, his aggressiveness to the UN will likely set the price for oil or the trend for oil near term, gold and so on."

While the world's richest economy has pulled out of the 2001 recession, corporate scandals, threats of attacks on the United States and questions about Iraq have left investors worldwide fretting the recovery could stall.

Tokyo stocks erased early losses to end higher for a fourth straight session, led by gains in battered bank stocks.

The benchmark Nikkei index closed 0.16 percent higher at 9,415.23, while the broader TOPIX rose 0.38 percent to 920.63.

Sumitomo Mitsui, Japan's second-biggest bank group, climbed 2.21 percent and Sony Corp. gained 1.34 percent.

The currency market shrugged off data showing a rise in Japan's current account surplus, focusing instead on the government's expected new policy steps to combat inflation.

At 0630 GMT, the yen was trading around 120.50 to the dollar after the US currency rallied overnight. The euro was around $0.9750, little changed from its late New York level.

Korean shares gained, with a weaker won helping exporters and construction shares bolstered after the central bank left interest rates steady despite a feverish property market.

The key KOSPI index closed two percent higher 739.22.

Australian stocks were broadly unchanged with traders focused on what Bush and Greenspan will say later in the day.

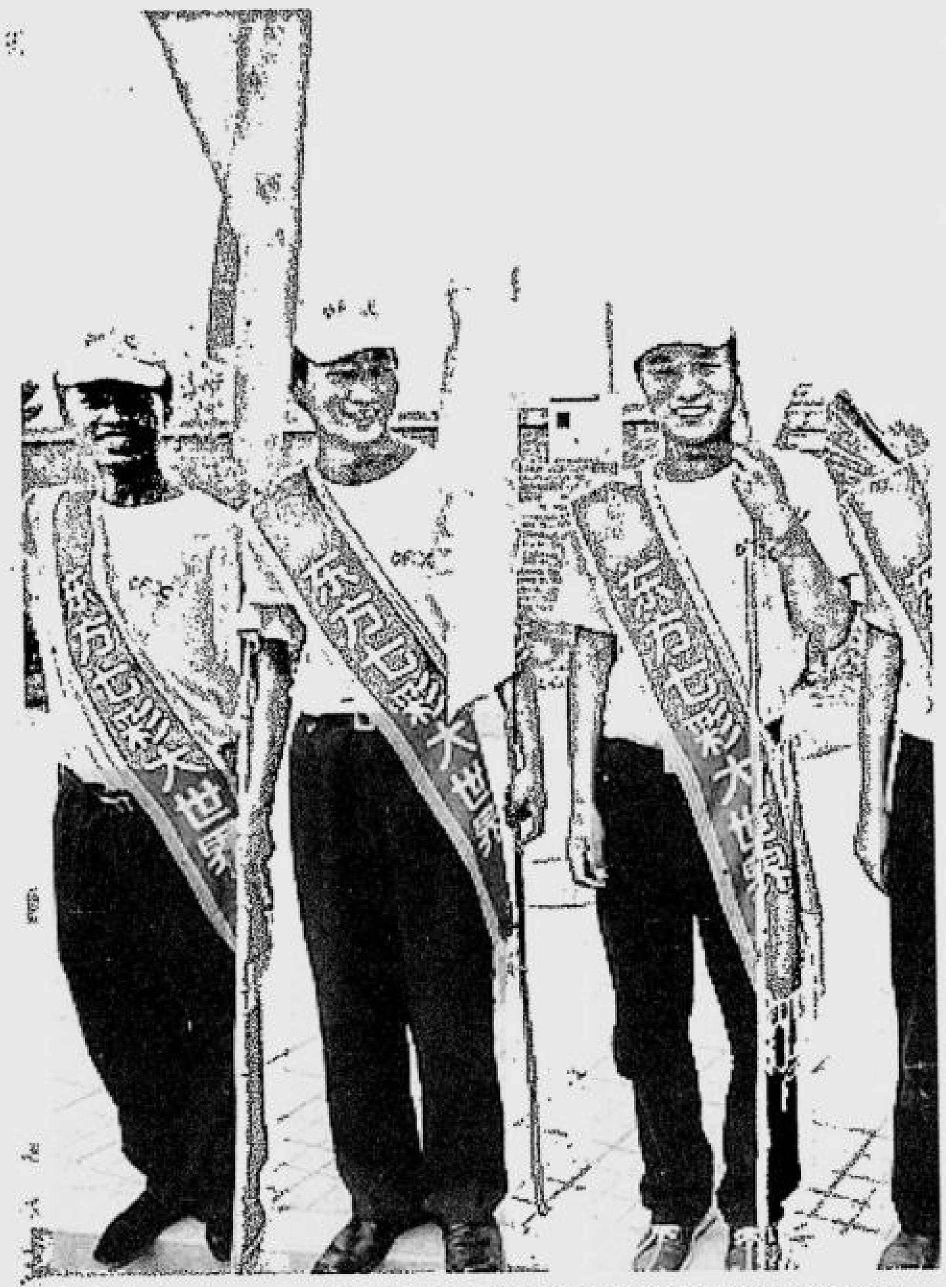
The benchmark S&P/ASX index lost 0.35 percent to 3,141.1.

Taiwan's main TAIEX index closed 0.28 percent lower at 4,647.37. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing, the world's largest contract chipmaker, lost 1.19 percent.

Hong Kong shares were eking out modest gains. Cathay Pacific, Asia's fourth largest carrier, jumped nearly 4 percent by midday on bargain hunting. It had lost 14 percent in the past month on higher fuel prices and worries of an Iraq attack.

The uncertainties over the US economy weighed on shares in Singapore, a big exporter to the United States. By 0615 GMT, the key Straits Times Index was down 0.65 percent at 1,439.08.

On Wall Street, stocks drifted down in a quiet, abbreviated session on Wednesday as financial professionals went half-heartedly about their work on a day dominated by painful memories of the Sept. 11 attacks. *Reuters*



A GROUP of workers promoting their shop stand along a street in Beijing to attract customers. China's economy is growing at the fastest pace of any country in the world at the moment, with a growth rate more than 8 percent annually, as an analyst claimed the high growth rate was necessary to fuel changes in China's economic structure and to absorb the movement of rural people to the cities seeking employment. AFP

Japan may tweak policy to calm markets

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan may have to tweak its monetary policy next week, whether it likes it or not, as pressure mounts on the central bank to head off a financial crisis ahead of the Sept. 30 half-year book-closing.

The most likely option at the BOJ's Sept. 17-18 policy meeting, an increase in its monthly purchases of Japanese government bonds (JGBs), would technically not even constitute monetary easing since it does not necessarily mean a rise in the overall amount of funds the bank supplies to the money market.

But expectations have built up so much due to political noise after the stock market's drop to 19-year lows that doing nothing ahead of Sept. 30 could be disastrous, economists say.

"Unfortunately, the issue is not whether their action will have any desirable impact but the risk of not acting," said Ryutaro Kono, senior economist at BNP Paribas in Tokyo.

"The markets and politicians have come to expect as a foregone conclusion that the BOJ will do something because of the book-closing." The Tokyo stock market has recovered some 4 percent from last week's 19-year troughs below 9,000 after ruling coalition parties put policy steps to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, including asking the BOJ to ease further and buy stock funds.

The idea of the BOJ buying exchange-traded funds (ETFs) is unlikely to see the light of day as it has raised eyebrows both inside and outside the institution due to concerns about a central bank manipulating stock prices and about the quality of the bank's portfolio, which backs up the credibility of the yen.

Even Horst Koehler, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund who has been calling for further BOJ easing, warned against such an idea this week.

"Artificial propping-up of stock prices for the short term, in my view, might not be the appropriate answer to the underlying problems," Koehler told reporters in Tokyo on Tuesday.

Hirohide Yamaguchi, an adviser to BOJ Governor Masaru Hayami, said the 1998 BOJ Law simply did not provide for stock purchases.

"Under the BOJ Law, bills and bonds are the subjects of money market operations. ETFs are not within the scope," Yamaguchi told a parliamentary committee on Thursday.

Short of such a radical step, however, the BOJ does not have much more in its arsenal, analysts say.

The BOJ has been flooding the money market with liquidity under its 17-month-old "quantitative easing" policy, effectively keeping short-term interest rates virtually at zero. The benchmark overnight call rate is now around 0.002 percent. *Reuters*

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starts
7:00am
breakfast
Delifrance Doma Café Starbucks UCC Vienna Café
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SEC expects more indictments

LONDON—US financial markets watchdog the Securities and Exchange Commission said on Thursday it expected to see more high-profile indictments in coming weeks of "people who abused their public trust."

"I expect this week and in the following weeks we will see more high-profile indictments of people who abused their public trust," SEC chairman Harvey Pitt told BBC radio in an interview monitored in London.

"A number of high profile officials will find themselves in the spotlight for potential criminal sanctions like jail time." He did not mention names of any people or companies involved.

Global financial markets have been rocked by a series of accounting scandals in the United States, where executives of companies such as collapsed energy trader Enron and telecoms firm WorldCom are under intense investigation.

Meanwhile, former Fed Chairman Paul Volcker has rejected an offer to head a new oversight board created by Congress to police the accounting industry, The Washington Post reported on Thursday, citing sources familiar with his decision.

US corporate bond investors stand pat despite war talk

NEW YORK—A US invasion of Iraq could cause broad pain to the corporate bond market, and that has analysts urging investors to hew to the safest credits and sectors.

Yet it may be too late to shift investment strategies, some professional investors say.

"The damage has already been done," said Peter Palfrey, senior portfolio manager for Loomis Sayles & Co. in Boston. "The market has priced in a lot of bad news already."

The biggest worry: a repeat of the early 1990s sell-off when Iraq invaded Kuwait, causing the Dow Jones industrial average to drop 21 percent from its mid-1990 peak and yield spreads on corporate bonds to gap out sharply.

"A possible US-led military attack on Saddam Hussein's regime looks likely to remain a black cloud over the markets for the remainder of the year," Bear Stearns said in a recent report. "This could keep a lid on investor sentiment and their appetite for taking on risk in the near term."

Demand for safe havens grew on Tuesday when the US government put the country on high alert, deploying anti-aircraft missiles around Washington and closing some embassies in Asia.

Over the weekend, fears of military action against Iraq to topple its leader Saddam Hussein were heightened when aides to President Bush said they have new evidence that Iraq is seeking nuclear arms.

"A confrontation with Iraq could drive energy prices sharply higher and also significantly erode consumer confidence and business sentiment," perhaps even throwing the country into a "double-dip" recession, said John Lonski, chief economist for rating agency Moody's Investors Service.

Yields on the safest, or more highly rated, corporate bonds already have tumbled this year as accounting scandals, bankruptcies and a bear market in stocks sparked safe-haven buying.

The typical industrial company's five-year bonds with "double-A" ratings now yield just 0.52 percentage point more than Treasuries, down from 0.61 percentage point at the beginning of the year, according to JP Morgan Chase.

In contrast, spreads on five-year bonds with "triple-B" ratings, the lowest investment grade, have gapped out to 2 percentage points more than Treasuries, up from 1.49 percentage points at the beginning of the year.

Despite forecasts for a riskier environment, some investors are standing pat. *Reuters*

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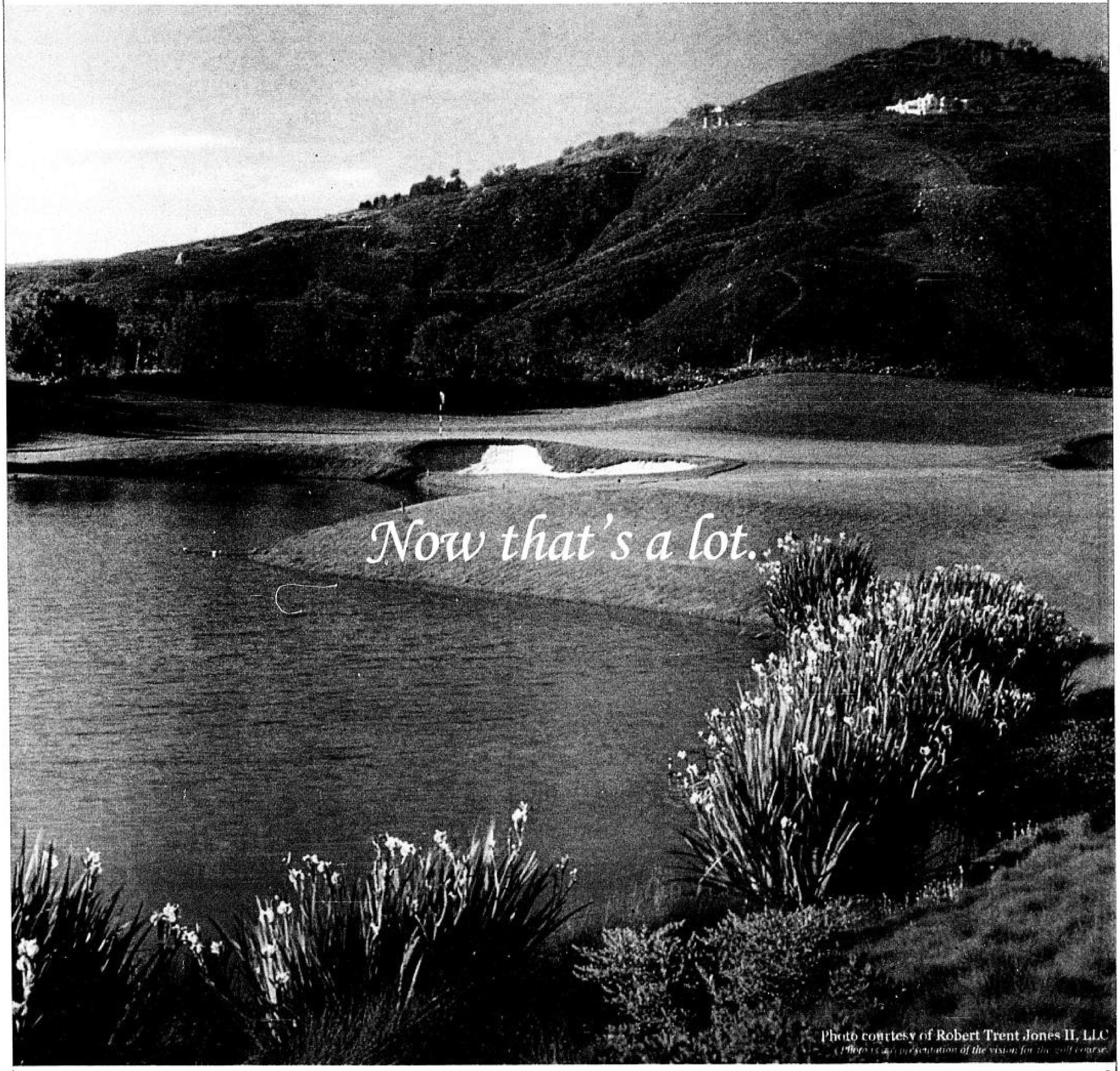
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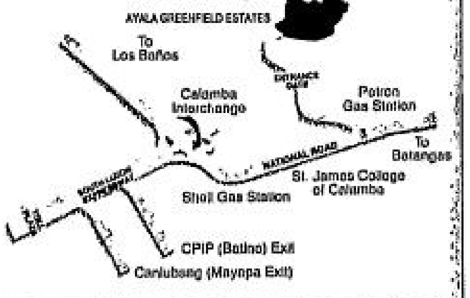

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Greenspan to Congress: US recovery on track

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan will try to spread oil on troubled waters on Thursday, reassuring Congress the sluggish US economy has enough endurance to keep eking out growth.

Financial markets, already queasy at the potential for military action against Iraq, will be closely tuned to Greenspan's testimony before the House of Representatives budget committee at 10 a.m. for indications of how he views the prospects ahead.

The timing of the Fed chief's testimony, against a backdrop of a patchy and hesitant recovery, is especially sensitive.

Coming one day after the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, Greenspan's comments to lawmakers are scheduled to begin a half hour before President Bush is to address the United Nations on Iraq, pressing the US case that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is a threat to global stability.

Uneasiness over the Bush team's drive to win other nations' support for the ousting of Saddam and fears that vital Middle East oil supplies could be disrupted by such an action have heightened financial market volatility in recent weeks.

Should a supply interruption force oil prices up from their current range around $30 a barrel, it could be a significant added drag on the world's largest economy at a time when it is only crawling ahead.

US gross domestic product grew at an anemic 1.1 percent annual rate in the second quarter of this year.

The Fed's "Beige Book" anecdotal survey of national economic activity, issued on Wednesday, showed that aside from new-car sales and housing there was not much to push growth ahead more briskly in any part of the country.

"Most districts indicated slow and uneven economic growth, with mixed or scattered experiences across sectors of the economy," the Fed said, citing lackluster manufacturing activity and a weak commercial real estate sector.

At the last meeting of the rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee, Fed policymakers kept interest rates steady but said economic risks were weighted toward weakness.

While this set the stage for the central bank to add to the 11 interest rate cuts made last year should the situation worsen, recent comments from Fed officials have indicated that policymakers are in no hurry to lower borrowing costs further.

Analysts predicted Greenspan would assure Congress a recovery from a nine-month recession that began at the start of 2001 remains in place and that growth, while far from robust, is still sufficient to avoid a "double-dip" slump.

"Fed officials have suggested that they are still confident that the economy will be able to ride out the summer lull and there is a widespread expectation that Greenspan will take that approach," said economist Lou Crandall of Wrightson Associates in New York.

The Fed aggressively cut US interest rates last year, dropping its key federal funds rate for overnight loans between banks to a 40-year low 1.75 percent, but has held short-term rates steady so far this year.

On Wednesday, top White House economic adviser Lawrence Lindsey said he felt all the elements were in place to keep an economic expansion on track, singling out productivity or worker output growth rates of 2 to 2-1/2 percent a year.

"As long as that productivity is there, the long-run prospects for American jobs and American pay scales—living standards—(are) very, very positive," Lindsey said in Chicago where he helped kick off the day's futures trading at the Chicago Board of Trade. ***Reuters***

HORST Koehler, International Monetary Fund managing director, delivers a speech at a symposium in Tokyo on Tuesday, to mark Japan's 50th anniversary of membership to the IMF and World Bank. AFP

Big, small software companies converge on mid-sized market

PALO ALTO, California—Competition among software shops that sell to mid-sized businesses is heating up, and the temperature promises to continue rising as big vendors look down-market for new customers and little vendors look up-market in search of growth and profitability.

Caught in the cross-fire are incumbents like Onyx Software and Pivotal, which sell customer relationship management (CRM) software that helps medium-size companies manage sales and customer service.

As the segment gets squeezed from above and below, Gartner Inc. research director Joe Outlaw said some software shops won't make the cut. And indeed, many start-ups already are gone or are rapidly shrinking.

"We expect 25 to 30 percent consolidation in the mid-sized CRM market in the next couple of years. People will get merged out, pushed out, moved into some vertical niches," he said.

Nevertheless, the appeal of the mid-market is clear—just look for the dollar signs.

Departments of some multinational companies are turning to upstart online providers like Salesforce.com to save money, while many small- and mid-sized companies are spending about the same, if not more, on software.

Russ Cottle, business development manager at Jordan Lawrence Group, said the collapses of companies like Enron Corp. have boosted his business, which helps customers manage the records they are legally required to keep and confidentially destroy those that they aren't.

"I would say we're doing more technology," Cottle said.

Siebel Systems Inc., Oracle Corp., SAP AG and PeopleSoft Inc., which traditionally targeted the Fortune 500, have been devoting more resources to mid-tier sales since demand from large corporations shriveled in the wake of the dot-com and telecom collapses.

PeopleSoft, for example, recently said it now gets one-quarter to one-third of its sales from the sector, which it defines as companies with annual revenues of up to $300 million.

The top end of the mid-market "is going to be the really hot area when the economy picks up," Outlaw said.

Outlaw, who focuses on CRM sales, sees mid-market companies as those with 100 to 1,000 employees and sales of $50 million to $500 million.

On the other side of the coin, San Francisco-based Salesforce.com has been very public about its intent to steal customers from Siebel, the No. 1 CRM software seller. The privately held company—which still counts a bunch of small businesses as customers—often crows about its success in closing deals in divisions of large corporations that are known as "Siebel shops."

As Salesforce nips at Siebel's toes, privately held NetLedger aims to win over Salesforce's customers with its beefed-up CRM software.

San Mateo, California-based NetLedger writes the accounting, human resources and customer service management software that is sold as the Oracle Small Business Suite. In recent years, the company has gone from selling to companies with up to 100 employees, to selling to those with over 500 workers.

"Salesforce has a few more bells and whistles, but I didn't find that we were using them," said Jonathan Lizotte, chief financial officer at Designs for Health, a 27-employee company that recently dumped Salesforce for NetLedger.

Lizotte said NetLedger's integrated products enabled him to cut out the expense of stitching different software products together and allows him to quickly pull reports from the accounting and sales information generated by his company, which sells nutritional supplements.

NetLedger and Salesforce already compete with online CRM providers UpShot and Salesnet, as well as established software products like SalesLogix and GoldMine. Soon, the companies also will tangle with software giant Microsoft, which is expected to debut its mid-market CRM software in the coming months.

"The low end of mid-sized is getting a little more crowded," Outlaw said. ***Reuters***

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E-Government Track
November 20, 2002, 9:00am-12:00nn
State of E-Commerce Compliance by Philippine Government Agencies - Department of Trade and Industry
E-Government Budget Allotment - Department of Budget and Management
E-Banking and E-Payments - Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
E-Commerce Project Standards - National Computer Center
RP-Web Update - Department of Transportation and Communications
Use of VAS in E-Government - National Telecommunications Commission
Audit Initiatives and Issues - Commission on Audit

Wireless Track
November 20, 2002, 1:30-5:00pm
The State of Wireless Technology:
Multimedia Messaging System (MMS) - The Next Big Thing in Wireless
Surviving the Advertising Slump Through Wireless Technologies
Location-Based Services & Telematics
Mobile Commerce: How Wireless Technology Makes Business

E-Commerce Track
November 21, 2002, 9:00am-12:00nn
Electronic Cash Management: Creating Value for Your Business in the Digital Age
Best Practices in Doing E-Commerce by Successful DotComs in the Philippines: The e-2-door.com and MyAyala.com Case Studies
Interactive Online Banking

Internet & Web Technology
November 21, 2002, 1:30-4:30pm
Best Practices in E-Commerce Project Management
Implementing Logistics: A Case Study
Web Technology and Services - Microsoft.NET

Outsourcing Track
November 22, 2002, 9:00am-12:00nn
The Philippine Software Development Outsourcing Industry: A Self Assessment
2003 Global Forecast for IT Services Outsourcing Market
Global Market Opportunities in Outsourced Software Development Business

[illegible] Track
November 22, 2002, 1:30-4:00pm
Convergence Bill
Optical Media Bill
Terrorism Bill
Cyber Crime Bill

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Nestlé says FTC clears Chef America purchase

ZURICH—Nestlé SA said on Thursday the US Federal Trade Commision cleared its $2.6-billion purchase of Chef America, the fifth largest US frozen food producer, and said the deal would close immediately.

The deal allows Nestlé, the world's biggest food group, bolster its position in the fast-growing US frozen food market. Chef America is best known in the United States for its Hot Pockets, Lean Pockets and Croissant Pockets brands.

The transaction is the latest in the fast consolidating food industry where Nestlé is particularly active, having bought US pet food maker Ralston Purina in a $10-billion deal last year.

Nestlé is also seen as frontrunner in the race to buy US chocolate maker Hershey in a deal seen topping $10 billion as it seeks to become the top one or two in all of the markets where it operates. Nestlé is currently third in the US chocolate confectionery market, the world's biggest.

The frozen food industry is attractive as on-the-go US consumers demand more convenience products beyond the traditional TV dinners. The Chef America deal makes Nestlé market leader in two of three key areas in the world's biggest frozen food market.

Nestlé is pushing aggressively to expand its presence in the United States, already its single largest geographical market, accounting for almost a quarter of group sales of 84.7 billion Swiss francs last year.

Chef America is expected to have sales of around $722 million this year, with gross Ebitda profit of $198 million, giving an Ebitda margin of 27 percent. Nestle's Ebitda margin in 2001 was 15 percent.

Nestlé is paying $2.6 billion for Chef America, but it would receive a total of $600 million back in tax benefits related to goodwill deductions over the next 15 years.

The Chef America deal is expected to deliver savings of $43 million by 2007 and would be accretive to earnings in 2003. ***Reuters***

Ford pushes price war, offers deferred payments

DETROIT—Taking Detroit's price wars to new heights, Ford Motor Co. announced on Thursday that it will allow customers to buy its 2002 model year Ford vehicles and make no payments until January.

Dubbed "Free Ride," the deferred payment plan can be used in conjunction with other incentives on Ford's 2002 vehicles, including no-interest loans and cash rebates of up to $3,500, Ford said.

Ford said the plan would become effective Thursday and run through Sept. 30.

Under the plan, customers with five-year or 60-month payment plans will be required to make their payments in 57 months beginning in January, a Ford spokeswoman said.

Offers of deferred payments are common from appliance and home electronics dealers, and department store furniture departments are rife with such deals. But they are rare in the US auto industry where only Mitsubishi Motors Corp. and Mazda Motor Corp., a unit of Ford, are thought to have offered them in recent memory.

General Motors Corp., the world's largest automaker, has taken the lead on popular sales incentives ever since it introduced zero-percent loans after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

But analysts said Ford, the No. 2 automaker, is tired of playing second fiddle to its cross-town rival.

"It's interesting they're doing this because GM has been the leader and I think Ford is feeling kind of left behind," said analyst David Bradley of JP Morgan Chase.

"Every incentives program that comes out it's GM leading and Ford matching. I think Ford is trying to get aggressive and show they can be first once in a while too," he said.

Ford followed in the footsteps of GM and the Chrysler side of DaimlerChrysler AG last week by offering zero-percent loans on some of its 2003 model Ford brand vehicles.

But Ford, whose sales have lagged behind its rivals this year, has the largest stockpile of 2002 models among Detroit's Big Three automakers and needs to clear them out quickly.

"They need to get rid of '02 inventories," Bradley said. ***Reuters***

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Plantersbank opens in Tarlac

PLANTERS Development Bank (Plantersbank), the country's largest private development bank, recently opened a new branch along the Baguio-bound lane of MacArthur highway in San Nicolas, Tarlac City.

The bank's presence in Tarlac, popularly known as the "Melting Pot of Central Luzon," is part of its strategic thrust in reaching areas where there is a strong presence of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Aside from loans and deposit services, Plantersbank will also offer cash management and Internet-based solutions especially for SMEs. Branch manager Nerissa Exomo will head the new Tarlac branch.

Plantersbank, backed with over 40 years of SME banking, makes available to the Filipino entrepreneur the combined expertise and resources of its global partners World Bank's International Finance Corp. (IFC), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO).

Pana bares sked for September

THE PHILIPPINE Association of National Advertisers (Pana) is celebrating Advertisers Month for the whole month of September under Presidential Proclamation No. 177 signed Sept. 7, 1999.

In line with the celebration, Pana has lined up various activities and projects:

- Sept. 1 to 30 – Ear Ads will come out on newspapers and magazine courtesy of media partners.
- Sept. 7, 14, 21 and 28 – Integrated Marketing Communications classes at DLSU-CSB for Pana's Post Baccalaureate Diploma Program in Marketing Communications Management.
- Sept. 14 – Pana Bingo Social, 1:30 p.m. at The Manila Hotel for the benefit of Pana's Pamaskong Handog sa Mga Kapus-Palad Year 8.
- Sept. 1 to 30 – Lectures, Seminars and Symposiums in various colleges and universities with the topics "All About Marketing" and "Integrated Marketing Communications"
- Sept. 23 to 29 – Photo Exhibit at Shangri-La Mall (Shaw Boulevard corner Edsa, Mandaluyong City). The exhibit will feature 44 winning advertisements and 44 Top Advertisers. Opening on Sept. 23 at 4 p.m.
- Sept. 27 – Pana Supplement on various newspapers and magazines to commemorate Pana's 44th Anniversary.
- Sept. 27 – Pana 44th Anniversary Party, 6 p.m. Ballroom of The Westin Philippine Plaza
- Sept. 30 – Last Day of registration for the Early Bird of Strat Ur Stuff (Strategic Marketing Summit)

For inquiries, call Pana Office at 890-2989 to 91 / 899-5671 or 91.

WNCAA-ADIDAS SEASON OPENS

The WNCAA-Adidas 33rd season successfully opened and was attended by thousands of students, academe, parents and VIP guests. Present during the ceremony were (from left) Pana president Gigi Rodriguez, AdBoard chair Susan Dimacali, Adidas marketing director Angelica Suiza, KBP chair and RPN 9 CEO Cerge Remonde, and Adidas marketing officer Odette Velarde. The Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association features 15 schools and 13 sports (volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, taekwondo, swimming, table tennis, badminton, chess, athletics, wall climbing, indoor football, and billiards). The league runs from August 2002 until March 2003. The official TV network is RPN 9. The official radio station is RX 93.1 Monster Radio. Other sponsors include Avon, Don Henrico's, Elle and Close Up. The official marketing group is Tactical Xperts Corp. Special packages are still open for provincial league tours, championship and exhibition games. For inquiries, call 746-1229.

Daikin-Alen announces appointment of new president

MAEDA

EFFECTIVE April 2, the board of directors of Daikin-Alen Air Conditioning Inc. announced the appointment of Kenji Maeda as new president of the corporation, succeeding Kazuhide Horimoto who has been assigned by Daikin France.

Young, energetic, amiable and accommodating may be fitting words to describe the initial impression Maeda has registered to those who have been introduced and have begun working with him.

His overseas assignments, aside from the years he spent working in Daikin Japan include: Abbard Zairy (Saudi Arabia) as engineer from 1984-1985; Daikin Europe NV as part of the product development group from 1988 to 1995, and most recently before his assignment to Daikin-Alen. He worked in ACE Daikin Malaysia as managing director from 1996 to 2002.

MCCANN AGENCY OF THE YEAR

McCann-Erickson (Philippines) Inc. has once again bagged the prestigious Agency of the Year award given annually by the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines (4As), stretching to four the number of times the agency has won the honor since 4As introduced the awards five years ago. The AOY award combines all the achievements of an agency in the areas of creative, media, client services and fiscal management. At the recently held 4As 25th Advertising Summit, McCann also collected two AOY category awards: best in management of business and best in industry leadership and community service. McCann's winning streak carried over to the Ad Summit's Pilak Awards, where five of the 25 Pilipino Klasiks were created by McCann. Shown is McCann chair Emily Abrera and president Patricia Arches receiving the AOY award. Joining them are key officers of the agency and some of the 4As' founding fathers.

BITS & Clips

TOYM deadline extended

THE SEARCH for the Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of 2002 has been extended to Sept. 15. The country's most coveted award is continuing its search for the most outstanding individuals between the ages of 18 and 40 and who have excelled in their chosen field of endeavor. Past winners include Ninoy Aquino, Jose Mari Chan, Napoleon Abueva, Manny Pangilinan, Lea Salonga, Loren Legarda, Lance Gokongwei, and Jaime Zobel de Ayala. The 358 TOYM awardees since 1959 is a diverse conglomeration of people from all walks of life. This year's search is presented by PLDT, Equitable PCI Bank, Manila Bulletin, the Gerry Roxas Foundation and the TOYM Foundation Inc. Interested applicants can get in touch with the Philippine Jaycee headquarters at 14 Don A. Roces Avenue, Quezon City, telephone numbers 373-7907 to 09, fax 374-2495.

Philips easy installment

BY USING your Standard Chartered or Citibank credit cards, you can purchase Philips' top-of-the-line home entertainment equipment on installment all at 0-percent interest. Exciting free items come with selected Philips products. Premium offers on 6-month installment plan include Philips 32" Plasma TV. Also on 6-month installment plans are the 50" and 55" Projection TVs, and the 29" Real Flat TV. Superb audio products available on 6-month installment plan are the FW-V720, FWV320, and FW-V220 mini hi-fi and MC-200, MC-100, MC-105, and MC-110 micro hi-fi systems. DVD player DVD-Q50 Progressive Scan, VCD players SD-110 and SD-330 also come on a 6-month installment plan. These great offers are available nationwide at Abenson, Anson, Automatic Centre, SM Appliance Center, Sogo, Waltermart, and Western Marketing until Sept. 15.

Fortune in cards at Ten Noodles

UNTIL Sept. 15, Ten Noodles patrons will have a fortunate visit to the country's fast-growing specialty noodles restaurant with its Pick Your Fortune promo. For every single purchase worth P170, patrons are entitled to pick one Fortune Card from the deck and see what gift or fortune awaits them. Food items, discounts and novelty items such as innovative Ten Noodles note pads, pens and key chains await lucky winners. Instant prizes can be claimed on the day of purchase, while discounts and free food items can be availed of on the next visit to Ten Noodles. The Ten Noodles Fortune Cards colorfully depict the different identities of Oriental countries such as the Buddha of Thailand, a temple in Japan, the Merlion of Singapore, and Batik patterns from Indonesia. Located at Harrison Plaza and at the 2nd level of Glorietta 2, Ten Noodles serves noodle dishes and special rice bowls from all over Asia.

FORMER SECRETARY VISITS BOOKFAIR

Shown is former DepEd Secretary Raul Roco as guest of the Philippine Bookfair 2002 opening. With him are (from left) Tinette Capistrano, vice president and Irene Lloren, president of Primetrade Asia Inc. organizer of the Philippine Bookfair, and Rizalito Garcia, area sales manager, Far East, Time Warner Book Group, an AOL Time Warner Company. The Philippine Bookfair, the country's biggest and most prestigious annual book exhibition, successfully concluded Sept. 8 at the Megatrade Hall.

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

BPI, AYALA LAND CONTRACT SIGNING

The Bank of the Philippine Islands and Ayala Land Inc. recently held their contract signing for the BPI-Ayala Malls Discount Plus Program, whereby the perks of the Ayala Discount Plus Card are automatically accorded to all BPI cardholders. Through the BPI-Ayala Malls Discount Plus Program, all BPI Express Cash, Express Credit, or Express Teller cardholders who use their BPI cards to pay for goods or services at over 800 participating Ayala Mall merchants in Ayala Center Makati (Glorietta or Greenbelt), Alabang Town Center, and Ayala Center Cebu entitles them to instant discounts or free perks. Moreover, purchases done via Express Cash or Express Credit will automatically earn Ayala Discount Plus (ADP) rewards points. As an added value, BPI Express Credit cardholders earn ADP rewards points on top of any running Frequent User program. Leading the contract signing were (from left) Miriam Katigbak, SVP for Ayala Land, Teresita Tan, SVP for BPI, and Rowena Nazareth, AVP for Ayala Land.

Product FILES

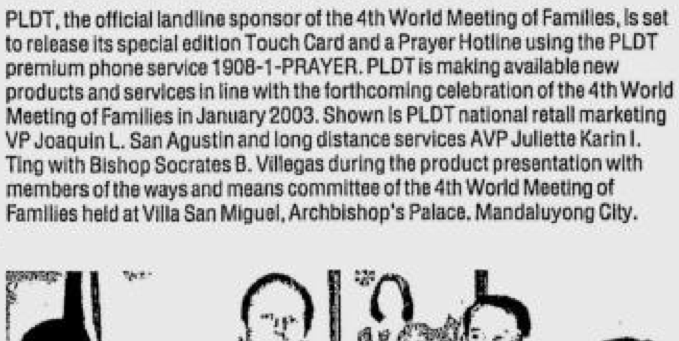
Step to Progress Gold

NOW, an even better progress for children aged 1 year and up has finally arrived. New Progress Gold has the exclusive GoldMind formulation. The only growing-up milk with Preformed DHA and AA that can better nourish your child's brain and improve his capacity to learn. It also contains all important nutrients such as nucleotides to help strengthen the immune system and natural carotenoids to help maintain healthy cells. Shown is accelerated child and Progress user Daf Bajaro, who skipped kindergarten. New Progress Gold is now available in leading supermarkets in 400g, 900g, and 1.6kg sizes.

Progress
GOLD

PLDT TO RELEASE SPECIAL TOUCH CARD

PLDT, the official landline sponsor of the 4th World Meeting of Families, is set to release its special edition Touch Card and a Prayer Hotline using the PLDT premium phone service 1908-1-PRAYER. PLDT is making available new products and services in line with the forthcoming celebration of the 4th World Meeting of Families in January 2003. Shown is PLDT national retail marketing VP Joaquin L. San Agustin and long distance services AVP Juliette Karin I. Ting with Bishop Socrates B. Villegas during the product presentation with members of the ways and means committee of the 4th World Meeting of Families held at Villa San Miguel, Archbishop's Palace, Mandaluyong City.



I-SOS MANILA DONATES TO PNRC

General manager Serge E. Grynkewich II of International SOS Manila donates to the Philippine National Red Cross national headquarters one unit Canon BJC 2000 SP Printer, medicines for refugees, and oxygen tanks, which Gen. Jaime L. Canatoy, PNRC chair, accepted in a simple ceremony recently. Shown, from left, are PNRC secretary general Lourdes R. Loyola, Grynkewich, Canatoy and former PNRC chair Justice Leonor Ines Luciano.

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*Office unit at Grd Flr of The Biltmore Cond., #102 Aguirre St, Legaspi Vil, Makati City FA=292.4sm; P131.6T/mo.

*Office unit #104 Le Metropole Cond., Buendia Ave cor. Tordesillas, SV, Makati City FA=192sm P77T/mo.

*Office unit #407 Pacific Star Bldg., Buendia Ave, Makati City FA=206sm P103.5T/mo.

*Office unit 4F Jaka 6780, Ayala Ave, Makati City FA=95.7sm P38.5T/mo.

*Office unit H1, 4F Jaka II, #150 Legaspi St, LV, Makati City FA=80.3sm P33T/mo.

*Office condo unit #504 Metropolitan Terraces, Kamagong St, Makati City FA=130sm P20T/mo.

*Office unit 2F RCBC Bldg, Timog Ave, Quezon City FA=265sm P120T/mo.

*Res'l condo w/2-BR unit 702 Tower-C Gotesco Regency Twin Tower, #1129 Concepcion St, Ermita, Manila FA=112.32sm P20T/mo

PROVINCIAL

*Comc'l Bldg1-storey unit 105 Bacoor Business Center, Aguinaldo Hi-way, Habay, Bacoor, Cavite FA=65.65sm P10T/mo.

*Comc'l L&B 1-storey w/ mezz. Nat'l Hi-way, San Fernando, La Union LA=290sm; FA=200sm P60T/mo.

*Comc'l L&B 1-storey w/ mezz. Regidor cor. Bonifacio Sts, Sta. Cruz, Laguna LA=238sm; FA=224sm P58T/mo.

*Comc'l L&B 1-storey Lopez Ave, Los Baños, Laguna LA=241sm; FA=141sm P38T/mo.

*Comc'l L&B, 2-storey along Commission Civil St, Jaro, Iloilo City LA=532sm; FA=285sm P40T/mo.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

METRO MANILA

Makati

*Comc'l unit w/ p.slots Metropole Bldg, Buendia-Tordesillas Sts, Salcedo Vil, FA=192sm P44.17M

*Office unit Metropolitan Terraces Bldg, Kamagong St, FA=130sm P5.98M

*Office unit 21F Peak Condo Bdg, Alfaro St, Salcedo Vil, FA=314sm P20.42M

Manila

*3-adj VL Pedro Gil cor. Penafrancia St, Paco TLA=263sm P9.21M.

NORTH LUZON

Bulacan

*Comc'l VL Nat'l Hiway, San Roque, Baliuag LA=400sm P600T

*L&B w/ 2-storey bldg along JP Rizal St, Tarcan, Baliuag FA=410sm; LA=641sm P3.73M

Nueva Ecija

*L&B comc'l stall & res. Maharlika Hi-way, Talavera FA=256sm; LA=1679sm P9M

VISAYAS

Bohol

*Comc'l lot w/ motor shed, Lamdagan St, Cogon, Tagbilaran City LA=1059sm P4.8M

Cebu Province

*Comc'l lots w/ shed Cebu South Hiway & Padilla St, Mambaling, Cebu City; TLA=1,742sm P20.9M

Negros Occidental

*2-adj VL Alijis Road, Bacolod City (beside Asean Alcohol) P2.53M

MINDANAO

Agusan

*VL at Ochoa cor. L.Jaena Sts, Butuan City LA=333sm P1.6M

*L&B R.Magsaysay St, Poblacion, Valencia LA=417sm FA=384sm(res) & FA=101sm(wrhse) P5.74M.

Cotabato

*2-VLs J.Palma St, Surallа, Sth. Cotabato TLA=997sm P2.99M.

Zamboanga Del Sur

*VL Climaco St, near Gov.Canin Ave, Canelar, Zamboanga LA=403sm P4.03M

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES

METRO MANILA

Las Piñas

*3-lot w/ wrhouses Alabang-Zapote Road (near SM SouthMall) TLA=7,056sm P200.6M

VISAYAS

Negros Occidental

*Ind'l Lot w/ wrhouses Nat'l Hi-way, San Carlos City LA=14313sm P18M

*Ind'l Lot w/ wrhouses San Juan St, Banago, Bacolod City (near Shell Depot) LA=1529sm P4.68M

Northern Leyte

*Ind'l Lot w/ Fence & S.Gate Nat'l Hi-way, San Antonio, Ormoc City LA=3000sm P2.1M

MINDANAO

South Cotabato

*L&B in 3-adj lots w/ 5drs wrhouses Nat'l Hi-way, Calumpang, Gen. Santos City TLA=2.97hec. P115.03M

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

METRO MANILA

Muntinlupa

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse & s.pool #4 Solita St, Camella Homes 2D, Putatan, FA=385sm; TLA=359sm P3.86M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse #93 Don Roxas Circle, Pacific Vil, Alabang LA=618sm P14.02M

Parañaque

*VL L6/B4 St Jude St, Lopez Vil, San Isidro LA=337sm P2.03M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse #235 El Grande Ave, BF Homes Vil Int'l FA=271 sm; LA=525sm P4.92M

*H&L w/ s.type hse L28/B2 Carmen DeLuna St, BF Homes Ph1 FA=252sm; LA=315sm P3.23M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse Velasquez cor Jacinto Sts, BF Homes Classic Vil FA=70sm; LA=504sm P6.36M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse #83 Adelita Chico St BF Homes Vil FA=340sm; LA=560sm P6.0M

*H&L w/ 2-storey Thouse at unit 10-A cor Matthew & St.Louis Sts, Don Bosco Village at P2.03M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse #30 Sandiville Subd, San Dionisio FA=145sm; LA=240sm P2.27M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse #17 Rome St, Merville Park Subd LA=513sm P6.58M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse #22 Beirut St, Merville Park Subd LA=474sm P4.53M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse #12 Sorano St, BF Homes Ph1 FA=120sm; LA=309sm P4.0M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse L14/B7 Silver Lane St, Silver Homes, Multinational Vil LA=150sm P3.57M

*H&L w/ 2-units hse L-286B Holland St, Better Living Subd FA=362sm; LA=300sm P6.68M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse #37B Jasmin cor S.Crispin Sts, Don Agredo Bernabe Vil, La Huerta LA=130sm P1.67M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse Faith St, Remanville Subd, Better Living FA=234sm ; LA=480sm P4.01M

Pasay

*H&L w/ 3-storey Thse unit #6 Edsa Mansion, Edsa (near Victory Liner) FA-143sm P4.3M

*H&L w/ 3-storey Thse unit #7 Edsa Mansion, Edsa (near Victory Liner) FA-143sm P4.3M

Pasig

*Res'l condo units #132, 207 & 219 Chateau Verde Condo, Valle Verde TFA=474sm P18.63M

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Quezon City

*VL L3/B3 Balintawak St, Ayala Heights Vil LA=725sm P14.5M

*VL L16/B170 Talisay St, Neopolitan Subd, LA=302sm P2.42M

*2-adj VLs L25&26/B67 Rd Lot 54 Neopolitan Subd Ph8, Pasong Putik, Fairview LA=600sm P2.85M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse L19/B5 Dña Adela St, Santiago Subd, Novaliches FA=220sm; LA=180sm P2.16M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse L6/B19 Molave St, Greenfields Subd Ph1, Novaliches FA=182sm; LA=200sm P1.85M

*HL w/ 1-storey hse L12/B5 Don Salvador St, Santiago Subd, Novaliches FA=165sm; LA=216sm P1.29M

*H&L w/ 3-storey Thse unit 17, Blk.1 Manhattan Thomes, Aurora Blvd, Project 4 FA=158sm; LA=56sm P2.87M

*H&L w/ 2-storey Thse L-28A/B-4 Capitol Estate II, Commonwealth FA=120sm; LA=75sm P2.16M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse #25A Moonlight Loop, Blueridge B Subd FA=600sm; LA=587sm P10.12M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse #80 Melchor St, Loyola Heights FA=450sm; LA=721.4sm P16.7M

*H&L #12 Roseville St, White Plains Subd FA=417sm LA=569sm P16.12M

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*Res'l condo studio type unit #1107 Prince Gregory Cond, 12th St, Cubao FA=31sm P1.1M

NORTH LUZON

Nueva Ecija

*VL San Roque, Guimba LA=6000sm P3.45M

*VL Bical, Munoz LA1.86hec P1.35M

*VL P.Crisostomo, Paludpod, Cabanatuan City LA=341sm P714T

*VL P.Crisostomo, Paludpod, Cabanatuan City LA=286sm P599T

*9-adj VLs DS Garcia St, Cabanatuan City TLA=5064sm P7.4M

*3-adj VLs Blk9 Sapang, Jaen LA=6272sm P3.18M

*H&L in 2-lots w/ apartm't bldgs Martin St, Bantug, Munoz TLA=750sm P5.92M

*H&L in 2-lots w/ 2-storey hse at Bantug Norte, Cabanatuan City LA=575sm P1.62M

Nueva Vizcaya

*VL Bayombong Div. Road, Bayombong LA=1539sm P1.54M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse Aritao FA=85sm; LA=1191sm P447T

Pampanga

*VL Nat'l Hi-way, Valdez, Florida Blanca LA=1.08hec P5.42M

Pangasinan

*VL San Jose, Urdaneta LA=8014sm P1.32M

*2-adj VLs Pob. Rosales (near Iceplant) TLA=370sm P185T

Rizal

*VL L10 Exec. Hills Subd, San Isidro, Taytay LA=1326sm P6.63M

*VL L7 Exec. Hills Subd, San Isidro, Taytay LA=1412sm P7.06M

*VL L6/B3 Florendo St., Vista Verde Exec Village, Antipolo City LA=434sm P1.31M

*VL L23/B3 Pennylane Victoria Valley, Cainta LA=1803 P4.87M

*VL L5/B1 Oliva St, Vista Verde Subd, Cainta LA=432sm P1.36M

*VL L12/B2 Quesada St, Vista Verde Exec. Vil Phs-8A, San Andres, Cainta LA=212sm P594T

*VL Malalim na Sapa, Binangonan LA=1647sm P3.29M

*VL L6/B4 San Juan, Binangonan LA=397sm P993T

*H&L w/ 3-storey hse L34/B2 Greenland Exec Vil, Caralangan, Cainta FA=575sm; LA=176sm P3.53M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse L11/B1 Gallego St, Vista Verde Exec Vil, Cainta FA=450sm; LA=242sm P4.09M

*H&L w/ 2-units 2-storey hse at L2/B2 Midland Drive, Midland Subd, Cainta TFA=142sm; LA=150sm P897T

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse #1213 Dearborn St, Brookside Hills, Cainta LA=260sm P2.76M

*H&L w/ s.level type hse L2/B3 Dearborn St, Brookside Hills, Cainta FA=330sm; LA=415sm P4.68M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse #17 Nat'l Rd, Dela Paz, Antipolo City FA=536sm; LA=1000sm P5.39M

Tarlac

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse #48 Gregory Blvd, San Rafael FA=104sm; LA=150sm P520T

SOUTH LUZON

Laguna

*VL Sirang Lupa, Calamba LA=2467sm P5.1M

*VL L1/B4 Tadiac, Los Baños LA=640sm P2.56M

*VL A.Fernandez St, Victoria LA=912sm P912T

*VL Balagtas Blvd, San Pablo City LA=559sm P2.8M

*VL P.Escuela cor Main Rd; StRosa Vil-3, San Antonio, Biñan LA=1083sm P5.41M

*9-adj VLs Blk19 Concepcion cor. Maria Sts, Teodora Subd Phs-1, San Gabriel, San Pablo City TLA=1620sm P4.05M

*2-adj VL's L4&5/B15 Don Rene St, Teodora Subd Phs-1, San Gabriel, San Pablo City LA=360sm P900T

*2-adj VLs Palasan Rd, Patimbao, Sta.Cruz TLA=9990sm P5.0M

*2-adj VLs Lewin, Lumban TLA=1047sm P838T

*VL Parian, Calamba LA=671sm P1.68M

*VL L36/B4 Belle Reve Subd, Sta. Rosa LA=711sm P5.12M

*VL L37/B4 Belle Reve Subd, Sta. Rosa LA=735sm P5.3M

*VL L38/B4 Belle Reve Subd, Sta. Rosa LA=744sm P5.36M

*VL L39/B4 Belle Reve Subd, Sta. Rosa LA=727sm P5.24M

*VL San Gregorio, San Pablo City LA=1.26hec P3.79M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse & s.pool at Sucol, Calamba FA=480sm; LA=793sm P6.87M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse L19/B4 Dña Justina St, Filinvest Subd 4, Tubigan, Biñan FA=230sm; LA=264sm P2.8M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse L4/B3 Juana Complex Subd-3, Halang, Biñan FA=157sm; LA=228sm P1.99M

*H&L w/ 1-storye hse L14/B3 Medex Subd, San Francisco, Calihan, San Pablo City FA=175sm; LA=192sm P1.82M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse #17 Concepcion St, San Pablo City FA=480; LA=360sm P6.99M

*H&L in 2-adj lots w/ 1-storey hse Vila Cristina Subd, Pagsanjan FA=150sm; LA=310sm P1.74M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse San Cruz, San Pablo City FA=201sm; LA=4759sm P1.95M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse Teomora Vilage, San Pablo City FA=113sm; LA=184sm P883T

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse L5/B2 Palmera Homes, Cabuo-an, Sta. Maria FA=36sm; LA=100sm P158T

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse L2/B2 Palmera Homes, Cabuo-an, Sta. Maria FA=36sm; LA=73sm P146T

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse L1/B2 Palmera Homes, Cabuo-an, Sta. Maria FA=36sm; LA=83sm P151T

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse L3/B2 Palmera Homes, Cabuo-an, Sta. Maria FA=36sm; LA=90sm P154T

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse #505 Mapayapa St, United San Pedro, San Antonio, San Pedro LA=534sm P3.25M

*H&L w/ s.level type hse L7/B7 Vila Josefina Village, Calios, Sta.Cruz LA=230sm P1.08M

VISAYAS

Negros Occidental

*3-VLs (non-adj) w/in Diga Subd, Alijis, Bacolod City LA=1772, 1620 & 400sm P1.33M

*2-adj VLs (900sm each) B13 Purok Sto.Rosario, Bata, Bacolod City P900/sm

*3-adj VLs Nat'l Hiway, San Enrique TLA=3336sm P1.17M

*VL L21/B4 Kalantia St, Lopez Subd, Victorias City LA=200sm P150T

*3-VLs (1000sm each) at Toboso (near Danao Depot) TLA=3000sm P750T

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*H&L L25/B48 Gisok St, Vila Angela Subd, Bacolod City FA=220sm; LA=250sm P2.4M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse Blk16 Ramylu Subd-2, Tangub, Bacolod City FA=279sm; LA=720sm P1.34M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse A.Cometa St, Burgos, Bacolod City FA=381sm; LA=211sm P2.0M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse Paz St, EB Magalona FA=80sm; LA=210sm P400T

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse Alley Rd near Herrerias St, Pob, Cadiz City FA=312sm; La=180sm P470T

Negros Oriental

*VL beside San Jose Village, Banilad, Dumaguete City LA=5350 P2.68M

*2-adj VLs Bgy Road, BuÖao, Dumaguete City LA=1000sm P1.11M

*VL Bgy. Road, Camanjac, Dumaguete City LA=1000sm P700T

*VL Balugo, Dumaguete City LA=1,368sm P684T

*H&L w/ 2-units hse Bgy Road, Lower Candauay, Dumaguete City FA=90sm each; LA=3156sm P2.35M,

*H&L along Nat'l Hiway, Pob, Kanlaon City LA=1202sm P2.0M

Northern Leyte

*4-adj VLs w/in Dña F.Meja Subd, Ormoc City TLA=962sm P1.4M

*3-VLs (472sm each) at Dayhagan, Ormoc City (near Buena Vida) P1,300/sm

*H&L w/ 2-units hse Dña F.Meja Subd, Ormoc City FA=390sm); LA=1,227sm P4.4M

*H&L w/ hse Rizal St, Ormoc City FA=70sm); LA=185sm P1.47M

*VL beside V&G Subd, Calanipawan, Tacloban City LA=3666sm P367T

*VL Caibaan, Tacloban City LA=895sm P100T

*2-adj VLs near Algo Homes, San Jose, Tacloban City LA=1176sm P100T

*VL Bgy-110, Utap, Tacloban City LA=6327sm P320T

*VL Bgy-92, Caibaan, Tacloban City LA=795sm P80T

*H&L L1&3/B15 Jansen Hts, Tacloban City FA=230sm; TLA=474sm P3.4M

Northern Samar

*VL Bo.Salvacion, Laoang LA=178sm P208T

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse Mabini St, Pob, Catarman FA=582sm LA=328sm P5.7M

Western Samar

*19-VLs Miraflor Vil, Dagum, Calbayog City TLA=5,175sm P2.6M

*118-VLs Dagum Hills-1, Dagum, Calbayog City TLA=2.3hec P3.55M

*VL Rd cor Rd16, Miraflor Vil, Dagum, Calbayog City LA=600sm P600T

*VL Nat'l Hiway, Bagacay, Calbayog City LA=2262sm P2.26M

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OFC STAFF 09202470113 Cindy

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Stock Certificate No. 5 issued to Domingo S. Guevara, Jr., Stock Certificate No. 6 issued to Herbert Sy and Stock Certificate No. 11 issued to Melchor C. Orosa consisting of one (1) share of stock each of Autoliv QB, Inc.

Should there be anyone who is in possession of or who would like to contest Stock Certificate Nos. 5, 6 and 11, please inform the Corporate Secretary of Autoliv QB, Inc. of said possession or contest within one (1) year after the last publication of this notice at the following address:

Atty. Celso L. Cruz
6th Floor Citibank Center
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

After the period of one (1) year from the last publication of this notice, the right to contest Stock Certificate Nos. 5, 6 and 11 shall be barred and new stock certificates shall be issued in lieu thereof.

(PDI-Sept 13, 20 & 27, 2002)

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W/2 yrs experience
In Textile Finishing
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P.O. Box 12030 Ortigas Center Pasig City

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

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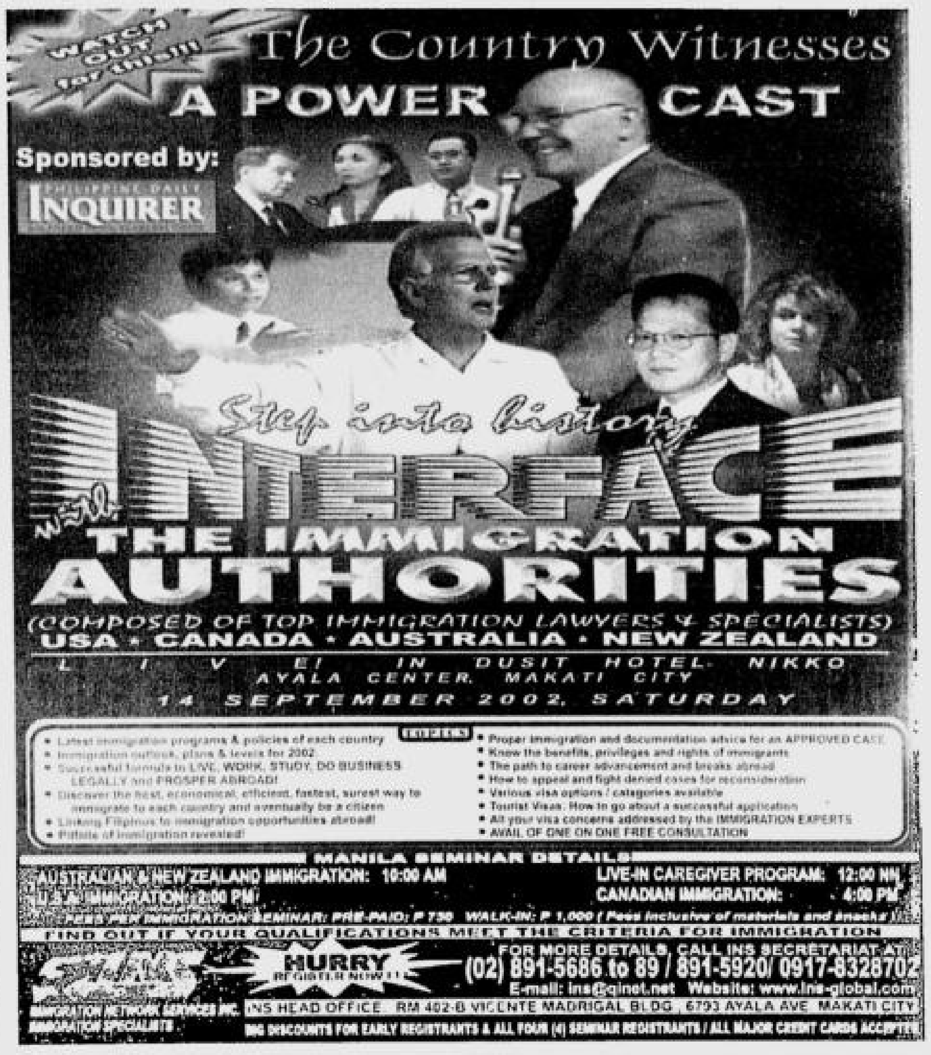
LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late PIOQUINTO AMBROSIO VILLARUZ was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Notary Public Atty. Carlito P. Egaña of Makati City, under Doc. No. 210 Page No. 43, Book No. VII; Series of 2002
(PDI-Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Aracelio B. Martin has been extrajudicially settled per Doc. No. 214, Page 43, Book III of Atty. Edward S. Macamay.
(PDI- August 30, Sept. 6 & 13 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

URBAN BANK Certificate#7717 - 60 shrs under the name of TOMAS GO was declared lost. If no contest is received w/in 1 yr new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 2002)



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Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
10th Judicial Region
BRANCH 24
Cagayan de Oro City

MINDANAO LUMBER & HARDWARE INC., by its Pres. GONZALO GO,
Plaintiff,
-versus-
POLE & PILE MFG., PHIL. INC., rep. by GEN. MANAGER DANNY RELUCIO
Defendants
x------------------------------/

CIVIL CASE NO. 2001 322
FOR SUMS OF MONEY WITH PRAYER FOR WRIT OF PRELIM ATTACHMENT

SUMMONS WITH THE COPY OF THE COMPLAINT

TO: POLE & PILE MFG., PHIL., INC.-#21 Congressional Avenue, Project 6, Quezon City
MR DANNY RELUCIO-National Highway, Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City

GREETINGS:

You are hereby Summoned and required to file and serve your answer to the complaint, copy of which is herewith served upon/publish upon you, within fifteen days after service hereof exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

WITNESS the Honorable LEONARDO N. DEMECILLO, Judge of this Court, this 22nd day of August 2002, at Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines.

ATTY. CAROLYN C. DAMASING
Clerk of Court V

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW, the Plaintiff through its undersigned counsel, and to the Honorable Court respectfully alleges, that,

1. Plaintiff is a corporation and existing under Philippine Laws, with its principal office and postal address located at the Go Building, Corrales Avenue, Cagayan de Oro City, and represented in this action by Gonzalo Go, of legal age, married, Filipino, its corporate president and resident of Corrales Avenue, Cagayan de Oro City.
2. Defendant is also a corporation duly organized and existing under Philippine Laws, with its principal office and postal address located at No. 21-D Congressional Avenue Ext., Project 6, Quezon City. It however does business in the Visayas and Mindanao, and maintains, operates and runs a plant and a branch office located at National Highway, Barangay Bulua-Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City, under the general managership of MR DANNY RELUCIO, the corporation's general manager, of legal age, and resident of the same address, to whom service of summons and other processes of the Honorable Court maybe serve and made effective.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

3. Defendant during the period from December 1998 to December 2001 or continuously for 37 months rented at Thirty Thousand (P30,000.00) Pesos per month the real property of plaintiff located along National Highway of Barangay Bulua-Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City, where the defendant put up its plant and branch office, without paying the rentals as they become due and now has totaled ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND (P1,110,000.00) Pesos
4. Despite demands made by plaintiff by sending a collector now and then to the defendant to demand and collect the rentals due, defendant failed and refused and continues to refuse and ignore to tender payment, to the prejudice and damage of the plaintiff in the total sum of ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND P1,110,000.00) Pesos.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

5. Defendant likewise during the period from February 1998 to January 2000, obtained on credit from the plaintiff various construction materials and supplies which remained unpaid despite demands to pay, in the total sum of THREE HUNDRED THIRTY FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY NINE (P334,339.00) Pesos, Philippine money, excluding accrued interest of 2% per month, evidenced as follows:

Charge Inv.#	Date	Del. Rec.#	Amount	Amount Paid	Unpaid Balance
3013	2-4-99	06290	P58,050.00	22,409.00	P35,641.00
3037	2-19-99	06517	17,400.00		
		06532	10,220.00		
		06518	5,245.00		32,865.00
3042	2-18-99	06556	43,850.00		43,850.00
3043	2-22-99	06649	17,400.00		17,400.00
3044	2-22-99	06648	6,350.00		6,350.00
3048	2-25-99	06802	5,200.00		5,200.00
3050	2-26-99	06630	41,800.00		41,800.00
3051	2-27-99	06629	26,100.00		26,100.00
3057	3-4-99	06781	26,100.00		
		06775	20,800.00		
		06796	55,500.00		102,400.00
3614	1-7-00	04200	22,733.00		22,733.00
	Total unpaid account of defendant				P334,339.00

6. Under the terms and conditions as stated in the Charges Invoices, unpaid accounts bear an interests of 24% per annum or 2% per month as attorneys fees of the sum due. Machine copies of the same are hereto attached and marked as annexes "A" to "A-23."
7. The interest due is ONE HUNDRED TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND FORTY EIGHT PESOS (P127,048.00), and the attorneys fee due is EIGHTY THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY FIVE (P83,585.00) Pesos.

COMMON CAUSE OF ACTION

8. The last demand made by plaintiff thru his lawyer was on December 5, 2001, for the defendant to pay all his accounts but the defendant refuses and ignores the same, hence the filing of this case. A copy of that demand letter is hereto attached and marked as annex "B".
9. There is no other sufficient security posted or put up by the defendant on plaintiffs, claim sought to be enforced by the present action, and, plaintiff has sufficient causes of action existing against the defendant, for which a Writ of Preliminary Attachment is prayed for. Attached hereto as Annex "C" is the Affidavit for Preliminary Attachment.
10. Plaintiff is willing and ready to post and put up a bond for the issuance of a preliminary attachment in an amount to be fixed by the Honorable Court, not exceeding the sum of One Million Six Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Pesos, which is the total claim of plaintiff herein including the interest and attorneys fees.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, it is most respectfully prayed of the Honorable Court that, pending the hearing of this case, a writ of preliminary attachment be issued against the properties of the defendant to serve as security for the satisfaction of any judgment that may be recovered herein, and that after due hearing on the principal causes of the action, judgment be rendered against the defendant in the following sums.

1. As to first cause of action, the sum of One Million One Hundred Ten Thousand (P1,110,000.00) Pesos, plus attorneys fees equivalent to 10% or 110,000.00;
2. As to second cause of action, the sum of Three Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Nine (P334,339.00) Pesos plus P127,048.00 as interest and the sum of P83,585.00 for attorneys fees.

Plaintiff further prays for such other relief just and equitable such as for defendant to pay the costs and litigation expenses.

City of Cagayan de Oro, December 11, 2001.

MATEO G. DELEGENCIA
Counsel for the Plaintiff
Press Club Building, Don Apolinar Velez Street, Cagayan de Oro City

(PDI-Sept. 13, 2002)

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OBITUARIES

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I am the Way, the Truth & the Life...
John 14:6

Dr. Laureano "Ano" R. Gregorio, Sr.

Now peacefully rest in the Grace of our Lord on September 12, 2002 at the age of 88.

His loving wife **Rosario Roxas**; children **Edor** & **Nina Padiernos**, **Kit** and **Zonnie Villarica**, **Jun** and **Annie**, and **Beybie**; grandchildren **Edward** and **Gee-Ann Padiernos**, **Charissa** and **Cheryl Villarica**, **Cereb**, **Marru** & **Gari Gregorio**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at Poblacion II, Marilao, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 15, 2002 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at the St. Michael the Archangel Parish Church, Marilao, Bulacan.

In Loving Memory
of

VIOLETA CALVO-DRILON

(August 20, 1943 – September 13, 1995)

SANATE PRESIDENT FRANKLIN M. DRILON, his wife **MILA**, and children **ELIZA** and **PATRICK**, request relatives and friends to remember her in their prayers on her **Seventh Death Anniversary**.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at the following churches:

Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan	7:15 A.M. & 6:15 P.M.
Mary the Queen Church, Greenhills, San Juan	7:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
La Consolacion Convent, Mendiola, Manila	6:00 A.M.
Christ the King Church, Green Meadows, Q.C.	7:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
Our Lady of Edsa Shrine, Edsa, Quezon City	12:15 PM
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Valle Verde V, Pasig City	6:30 A.M.
Lady of the Abandoned Church, Sta. Ana, Manila	5:30 A.M., 6:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.
Holy Cross Church, J.P. Rizal, Makati City	6:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in the green pastures,
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul..."

MERCEDES LEONARDO-ARISTORENAS

Peacefully joined her Creator at the age 83.

Her loving husband **AGENOR**; daughter **EMMA**; son-in-law **EFREN**; grandchildren **J.R.**, **ROMMEL** and **PRECIOUS**; sisters and brothers **CARMEN** (†), **SOLEDAD**, **EUGENIO** (†), **CONSTANCIO** (†), **CATALINA**, **ANTONIO** (†), **AUGUSTO SR.**, **NICOLAS** (†) request family, friends and readers to remember her in their prayers.

Her remains lie in state at Santuario de San Jose, East Greenhills, San Juan.

She will be laid to rest at Holy Gardens Memorial Park, Taytay, Rizal on Sunday, 15 September 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Don Martin Z. Urra

Fallecio el dia 11 de Septiembre de 2002

Su esposa **Niña**, hijos **Margie, Martin Jr., Santos y Carlos Miguel**, hermanos, sobrinos, demas familia y amigos

RUEGAN una oracion por su alma

El velatorio esta instalado en la Capilla de St. Alphonsus De Liguori en Magallanes Village, Makati.
La misa "corpore insepulto" se celebrara en la citada capilla, el sabado, 14 de Sept. a las 9:30 a.m. y posteriormente el entierro tendra en el Manila Memorial Park.

ELISA PONCIANO PAULO

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 11, 2002 at the age of 79.

Her bereaved children **OLIVIA** and **OLGA**; son-in-law **Ramon I. Diaz**; grandchildren **Red**, **Miko** and **Monik**; sister **Remedios Fajardo**; brother-in-law **Gabby Fajardo**; sisters-in-law **Lydia Paulo Baldemeca**, **Augusta Paulo Cirla Cruz** and **Catalina Paulo Abroguena**; all the nephews and nieces, and all the relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sto. Niño Church of Pandacan, Manila.

Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2002, at 8:00 AM. Interment follows at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Our Dearly Beloved Tatay

ARCADIO B. OLAZO, SR.

Peacefully joined our Creator on 3 September 2002 at the age of 75.

His bereaved children **Celso** and **Vivian**, **Leo** and **Susan**, **Mario** and **Carmen**, **Bobby** and **Genie**, **Jun** and **Jane**, **Ato** and **Gigi**, **Noel**; his **grandchildren**, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at Sibulo Subd. II, San Pedro, Laguna.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 15, 2002, 3:00 p.m. at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Biñan, Laguna after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

There are no sunsets:
Only the constant struggle of day against night,
And our total dedication to the light.

ARTEMIO A. ALMENDRAL

of Casile, Biñan, Laguna & San Francisco CA, USA

Lawyer UP LI B'48, WWII Veteran-Hunters ROTC Guerillas, I.F. Upsilon Sigma Phi '47, Liberal Party, Knights of Columbus, Lions Club, loving husband of **Aurora Reinoso-Almendral**, and gentle father,

Peacefully joined his Creator with the guidance of our Savior Jesus Christ on September 8, 2002 at the age of 81.

His wife & children: **Ariel & Nenet, Telly & Ben, Flora Linda (†), Anne & Conrad, Alexander & Melinda, Dodi & Henry, & Gemma**; grandchildren and relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul and for peace and justice for all.

His remains lie in state at the Parish Church of San Antonio de Padua in San Antonio, Biñan, Laguna.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 14, 2002 at the Municipal Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass at the Church.

"LOVE NEVER FAILS"
1 Corinthians 13:8

So deeply missed... lovingly remembered

Rogelio 'Jojo' M. Samonteza, Jr.

APO-Pi Chapter - UST - 1984
March 1, 1968 - September 13, 1993

With love -

Daddy **ROGER**, Mommy **MILA**,
sisters **ALMA, MYLA & MIHLGRACE**,
brother-in-law **SAMMY**,
nephews **JEROME & JASON**,
niece **PAULINE** and friend **CHERRY**.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 09196239902) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 09207645273) with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 and 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Brgy. Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City

September 12, 2002

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The National Food Authority, Region 6, Iloilo City invites interested NFA licensed grains businessmen in the Sale Through Market Determined Pricing (SMDP) of its local rice stored at the following provinces:

PROVINCE/WAREHOUSE	VARIETY OF BAGS			
	RMO	WMO	RRO	TOTAL
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL				
GID	7,381		187	7,568
GEQUILLANA	4,064		192	4,256
RL	16,431			16,431
SANSON	14,119			14,119
NAPRO	2,396			2,396
ILOILO				
KABSAKA	851	45		896
JARO GRAINS CENTER	327	7		334
AKLAN				
AKLAN GRAINS CENTER	376	21		397

The sale shall be on "as-is-where-is" basis at Php11.00 per kg indicative price. Offerors shall be required to post a bid bond in the form of either cashier/manager's check payable to NFA and equivalent to the following:

CLASSIFICATION	CAPITALIZATION	BID BOND
1. Small	Up to Php 20,000	5% of SMDP amount
2. Medium	More than Php 20,000-Php100,000	5% of SMDP amount
3. Big	More than Php100,000	10% of SMDP amount

The bid bond may be converted to performance bond once the award is made. Interested businessmen shall submit the following:

1. Certified copy of business license/NFA license/NFA registration.
2. If thru representative, duly notarized authorization to represent in SMDP activities.
3. A certification from Registration & Licensing section of the NFA provincial office from where the business is situated as to the capitalization bracket. (small, medium, big)

The above-stated documents can be submitted starting **September 16 to 18, 2002 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. only to SMDP Secretariat**. SMDP terms and conditions and tender forms can be obtained from NFA Iloilo Regional Officer after paying a non-refundable fee of Php 200.00.

Schedule of SMDP - **September 19, 2002**, 9:00 a.m. and every Thursday thereafter until the stocks are exhausted.

Submission of Tender form together with bid bond shall be made during the auction proper right after the conduct of presale conference.

Venue shall be at NFA Iloilo Regional Office, Brgy. Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City. For more details, please contact Tel. Nos. **(033) 320-6246 and 329-2165.**

- The committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgment are most reasonable and advantageous to NFA.

(Sgd.) **LUDOVICO J. JARINA, CESO V**
Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 13, 14 & 15, 2002)

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INVITATION TO BID

CUTLER HAMMER ASIA CORPORATION (CHAC) invites sealed bids for the sale of its Land with area of 27,871 square meters and Plant Building with an area of 3,500 square meters complete with 250 kw Caterpillar standby genset, fire hydrant loop with an independent Diesel driven pump and 55,000 gal. h2o concrete reservoir, roof insulation, airconditioned offices, loading & unloading concrete deck and 20hp submersible d/well pump. **Property appraisal P120m.**

Minimum bid : **P72m**

Site Inspections : **September 23-October 4, 2002**
Bid submission : **October 8, 2002 (9 a.m. to 12 noon)**
Opening of bid : **October 8, 2002 (2 p.m.)**

Bid security in the amount of P200,000 in the form cashier's or manager's check or cash or bank guarantee for the bid security shall be required from the bidder.

CHAC reserves the right to reject any bid or all bids or accept the bid most advantageous to the company.

All bids shall be submitted to the Bidding Committee, Cutler Hammer Asia Corporation, at the plant site.

For other details pls. call Mr. Carlos, 8427919 or 049-549 7597 or cell 0917-500-1014.

(PDI-Sept. 13, & 15, 2002)

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INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

'Kodak'

In 1888 George Eastman, of Rochester, New York, created the world's first simple, inexpensive camera. All that was lacking was a good brand name for the product. He wanted a name that was unique and catchy, something short and snappy. The 34-year-old former bank bookkeeper sat down with a piece of paper and pencil and began to doodle. He found himself writing the letter *k* over and over again. It had always been his favorite letter. So how about a word that began and ended with *k*? After several attempts at different combinations, he came up the word *Kodak*, which does not mean anything at all.

Q. Why do we call someone who takes the blame for the action of others a *scapegoat*?

A. The expression has roots in the Bible, and was originally *escapegoat*—the goat that escaped. According to the law of Moses, the ritual of the Jewish Day of Atonement, involved two goats. One, the Lord's goat, was sacrificed as a 'sin offering.' The other, the scapegoat to which the high priest Aaron transferred the sins of his people, was driven into the wilderness and allowed to 'escape,' taking the Israelites' sins away with it.

Take a Tip. You can extend the life of photographic film and batteries by putting them in plastic bags and storing them in a safe spot in the refrigerator.

WORD WATCH

Kaldereta: from the Spanish *caldereta*, 'kettle' or 'cooking pot.'

PDI – September 13, 2002

OBITUARIES

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

MARCOS TOLENTINO YÑIGUEZ, JR.

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to our relatives, friends and all those who expressed their condolences, sent flowers, offered prayers and Masses, and who, in countless ways, comforted us in our time of grief.

May God grant you blessings for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

ELENA GABION ORBETA

29 April 1919—11 September 2002

Her loving children, Sister Ilena Maria Orbeta, SSpS, Jorge & Cecilia, Ador & Grace and Rey; grandchildren, Vance, Kahlil, Zacky, Jojo, Martin, Aisha, and Shala; nephews & nieces, in-laws, relatives and friends request prayers that her soul may rest in joy and peacefully join her Creator in the grace of our Lord.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Q.C.

Interment will be on September 15, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Arlington.

LUISA MALLARI ALANDY

*Died peacefully on September 11, 2002
at the age of 78.*

Her loving children **Luis & Noemi**; brothers, sisters, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, grandchildren & great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 15, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park (Marikina) after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
REXNER V. LUMAGUI	Sept. 13	2:00 PM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Taytay, Rizal	112 Gomez St., Kapalaran Subd Taytay, Rizal
OLIVIA S. DULPINA	Sept. 14	2:00 PM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Taytay, Rizal	Blk. 5 Lot 3 Azurite St. Golden City Subd., Bo. Dolores Taytay, Rizal
EDUARDO R. ORDOÑO	Sept. 14	10:30 AM	Holy Gardens La Union Memorial Park San Fernando City La Union	Brgy Cañatan, San Fernando City La Union
CRISTINA S. QUILLOY	Sept. 14	8:30 AM	Holy Gardens La Union Memorial Park San Fernando City La Union	Brgy Cañatan, San Fernando City La Union
MARIA C. APILADO	Sept. 14	2:00 PM	Holy Gardens La Union Memorial Park San Fernando City La Union	Brgy Dalangayan Este, San Fernando City La Union

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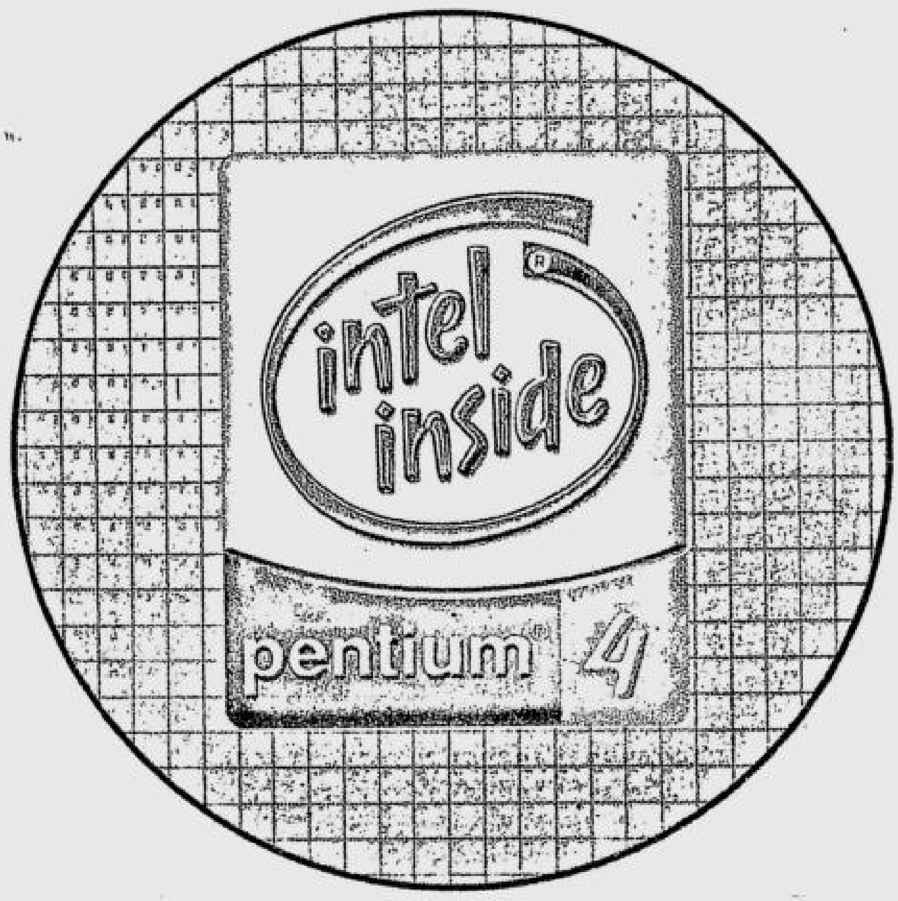

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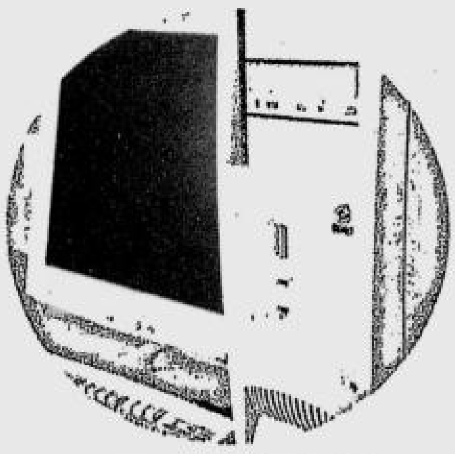

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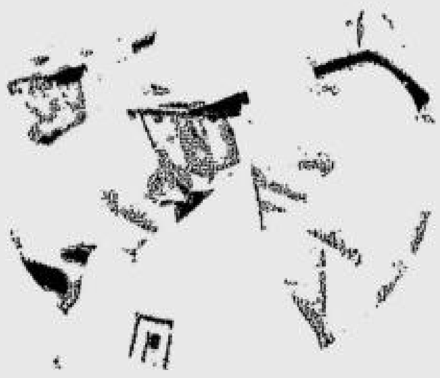

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BUSINESS*Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Tales of 11 budding entrepreneurs

By Abigail L. Ho

IN BUSINESS, age really doesn't matter and 11 young, promising entrepreneurs prove it.

Thames International Business School recognized these entrepreneurs when it went out and pooled together 38 of the most promising student entrepreneurs from colleges and universities all over Metro Manila for the first Student Entrepreneurs Fair.

The fair, held last Aug. 23 and 24 at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall, gave these students a venue to showcase their businesses.

From the 38 exhibitors, 11 (because of a tie) were chosen as the first batch of Ten Inspirational Entrepreneurial Students (TIES).

Beads are in

She enjoyed collecting beads and turning them into works of art but 19-year-old Ingrid Abigail Ongpauco never expected that her hobby would eventually turn into a business and make her a TIES awardee.

With just P500 as start-up capital, she bought raw materials for her bead business—Peas & Pics—and now sold earrings, necklaces, bracelets, anklets, bookmarks and adjustable ID holders via direct selling and consignment basis.

Asked where she got ideas for her bead accessories, she says it was a mixture of trends and what she felt would sell.

"I used to buy a lot from mall stores, so that's one thing. But usually, it's just off the top of my head—what I feel will click," she says.

Leather power

De La Salle University student Joanne Margaret Ong and six other partners started their business last January with the desire to get into business at a young age.

WINNERS of the recently concluded Ten Inspirational Entrepreneurial Students Awards. The TIES Awards served as the highlight of the recently held 1st Student Entrepreneurs Fair.

ONE of the more popular products during the fair was "coffee wine" which is being admired by Sen. Francis Pangilinan (second from left) with Vivienne Tan (extreme left).

Spool Works Inc. started making wallets out of cloth but had to switch to the ever reliable leather when Joanne and her partners realized that cloth was not such a good wallet material.

Now, the company makes leather wallets and is even thinking of adding leather bags to its line.

"With continuous research and development of the team, looking for new and practical designs, we envision ourselves to be the pacesetters of the country," she says.

School project

For most students, a thesis could be nothing more but the last requirement to get a diploma. But College of the Holy Spirit marketing major Fritzefer Tan Lee turned hers into a full-fledged business.

With four group mates, Fritzefer started a wooden spelling blocks business, Spell ME Enterprise, just this June. It sells colorful, native-looking nameplates.

During the fair, the Spell ME products caught the eyes of several companies which wanted to use their products as corporate giveaways.

Fritzefer says she plans to pursue the business, even though finding common time with her partners was really difficult these days because of their busy schedules.

"After all, it would be such a waste to discontinue a project that has already reaped so much success," she says.

Dishwashing fun

When it comes to washing the dishes, most young people would rather make excuses than do the actual washing. But 18-year-old Bernadette Rodriguez saw it as a step to a good business. Instead of trying to escape from the chore, she decided to make it fun.

She got the idea of a round-shaped, all-around scrubber from her mother. This idea eventually turned into a business, with Bernadette taking charge of its management and marketing aspects.

"What makes my product different from others is its round shape and its materials. It's easy to hold and it won't scratch your sensitive kitchen wares. It also lasts for about three months," she says.

World's best

Who would have thought that a college student could put up his own shoe manufacturing business?

Fascino Casuale Leather Goods came from Miriam College student Ridgenn Ong's own savings. He put up his business in 1995,

TALES/ C2

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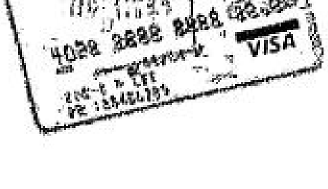

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Taxpayers beware

TAX-FILES

By Joel L. Tan Torres
SGV& Co.

"P400 MILLION in tax payments diverted by a criminal syndicate."

This is the essence of newspaper headlines that have recently been the hot issue for taxpayers and the Bureau of Internal Revenue alike.

In the past weeks, there have been reports of diversions of tax payments made by a number of large taxpayers. Check issued, amounting to over P400 million, which should have been paid to the BIR were instead deposited to the account of one of the members of the syndicate, and were subsequently withdrawn.

The NBI and the BIR are now investigating the circumstances surrounding these alleged tax diversions, and to date have not released the full details of who are involved and how these could have arisen.

In the meantime, some taxpayers have advocated for a tax boycott where they are threatening not to pay their taxes since there is no guarantee that these reach government coffers.

PCCI

The tax division of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry has, however, cautioned that a tax boycott is not the proper response and instead vigilance on the part of taxpayers is the more prudent course of action.

How did the tax diversion happen? What must be done by the taxpayers, on one hand, and by the tax authorities, on the other?

This recent case is not the first time that a tax diversion has been reported. In the 1980s, the tax payments of a large car manufacturing company were stolen by a criminal syndicate. Thereafter, there were several well publicized incidents of diversion of BIR tax payments such as those involving several big firms in Quezon City; a number of movie and TV personalities; the payments of capital gains tax on sale of several parcels of land in Marikina and the most recent tax diversions involving payments coursed through two large commercial banks in Metro Manila.

The modus operandi of the syndicates then and now appears to be similar. This essentially involves taxpayers entrusting their check payments of taxes to a member of the syndicate. This syndicate member can either be an employee of the victim business firm, an employee of the bank where the tax was supposed to be paid or a BIR employee.

Once the syndicate gets possession of the check (together with the tax returns), the check is then deposited in a personal account of another syndicate member. This account is normally opened in the same bank branch where the tax returns and payments of the victim taxpayers are filed and tendered.

Furthermore, this account is registered under a fictitious name. The acceptance of the check payment for deposit in this personal account is generally with connivance of an employee or officer of the bank branch.

Once the check has cleared, the syndicate then withdraws the money. Meanwhile, the victim taxpayer is not even aware that its tax payments have been diverted since it continues to receive its tax returns and tax receipts showing that tax payments have been made.

Syndicates

However, these documents or tax validations are all faked and manipulated by the tax syndicate. As a consequence, the BIR is not able to collect taxes, the taxpayer may have still to pay the taxes that have been diverted, the credibility of the tax system is eroded and the members of the syndicate are able to enjoy their stolen millions of pesos.

It is clear that the government, especially the BIR and the police authorities, as well as taxpayers will have to immediately act to address these problems. The NBI and police must be able to identify and arrest all the members of the tax syndicate.

The Department of Finance and the BIR must institute the necessary reforms to prevent the diversion of taxes and to restore the confidence of taxpayers in the security of the tax collection process.

The BIR will have to consult and coordinate with the stakeholders, such as the collecting banks and the taxpaying public. In this way, there will be a secure, efficient as well as convenient system that can be adopted.

On the part of taxpayers, they have to be vigilant at this time pending the implementation of the corrective measures. Taxpayers, who are manually filing tax

TAXPAYERS/C3

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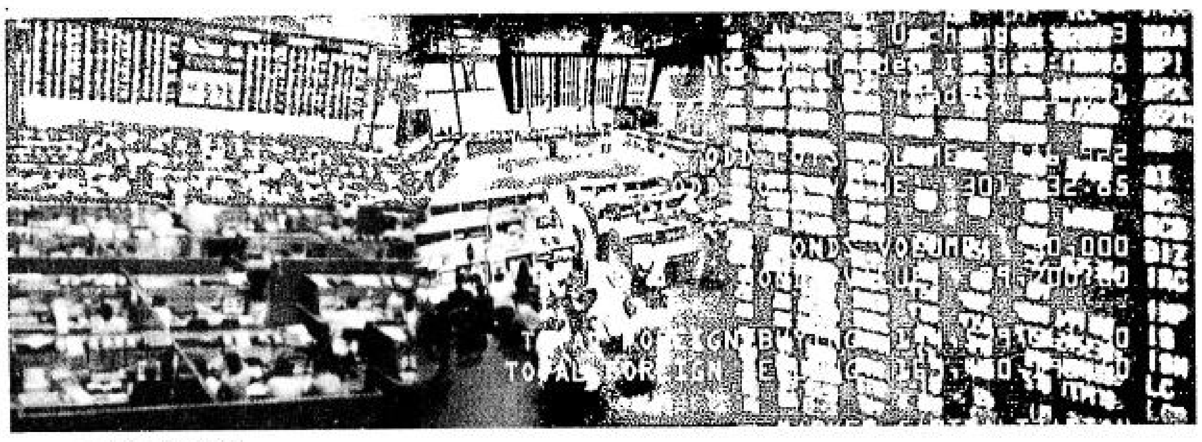

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Tales of . . .

From page C1

with equipment purchased with his own money and employees paid with his own savings.

Ridgenn got the idea from his parents, who also taught him the basics of the business. He also attended various seminars to enrich his skills.

Even at his young age, he is confident that his business can thrive in the face of competition from cheaper Chinese brands that are flooding the market.

"It would be difficult to compete with products from China when it comes to price because, to start with, their raw materials are cheaper. But with better quality products, we could still compete," he says.

Husky bear

A unique idea that, yet again, came out of a school project. That's exactly what Mary Catherine Lopez's business was all about.

Expo Enterprise sold 1-foot-tall electronic table lamps made of coconut husk fiber.

Mary Catherine and her group mates shelled out P750 each and outsourced the production of the lamps to get the business rolling.

Being one of the TIES awardees made her and her group mates even more excited to pursue their business, she says.

Unedible pineapples

Pineapples are not only for eating but are also for making flower arrangements more beautiful.

And these unedible pineapples may well help 19-year-old Angelo Ray Obrero's Obrero Farms & Gardens go into the international market.

His ornamental pineapples, grown in his own Bukidnon farm, are used as ornaments for flower shops' floral designs.

Angelo is already in talks with investors for a possible export venture to Japan and Singapore.

Gold finger

His is a gold finger, comparable with a garden enthusiast's green thumb. University of Asia and the Pacific student Hegem Furigay, at only 18 years old, already had the distinction of being a registered gold panner recognized by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Hegem's family operated several pawnshops in Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Basilan and Zamboanga, so the gold business already ran in his veins.

From his family's pawnshop, he buys auctioned gold jewelry by volume and has these melted in refineries where they are refined into gold bars and sold to the BSP.

Hegem plans to put up his own gold refinery and later venture into jewelry making.

Natural beauty

People today have become health- and beauty-conscious, as proven by the number of gyms and facial centers that have lately sprouted all over the country.

Thames International Business School student Ira Briones capitalized on this trend by putting up CDI Botanical Trading, which manufactures and sells a wide range of organic soaps.

She started her business last May when she hired a chemical engineer to concoct perfect soap formulas and rented a place in Cubao that now serves as her office and manufacturing center.

Doing business and studying at the same time may pose no problem for this Mass Communications student but she said she would be concentrating more on her studies right now.

Character cakes

Assumption College student Basilissa Trinidad Antonio has always loved cooking and baking. In high school, she sold chocolate truffles to her classmates. By the time she entered college, she thought chocolate making was already boring so she decided to venture into cake-decorating.

"I was supposed to attend Heny Sison's Masters of Baking class but there was no slot left for me and only my sister got in. They taught my sister how to decorate cakes and she then taught me. We then established our own business," she said.

Lissa discloses that Passion in a Box would eventually venture into making gourmet cakes on top of their line of character cakes, which include cake versions of Winnie the Pooh, Blues Clues, Elmo and the Powerpuff Girls.

Coffee with a spirit

The first of its kind in the country, Bethel Vosotros' Coffee Wine Co. aims to create a distinct identity for the Pinoy wine.

Bethel's coffee-flavored wine was the result of a product development project for one of her classes in the Far Eastern University. She and her group mates conceptualized the product and then shelled out P1,000 each to start their business.

"We went through the project through sheer inspiration to succeed in our venture, despite the lack of much needed support in terms of finances," she says.

Right now, the group is conducting research on the feasibility and marketability of a "tea wine" product.

A THRONG of students listens intently to an entrepreneurial expert from the Thames International Business School, who gave advice to students on how to start their own business.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Firm uses guerrilla tactics to sell generics

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

MARKETING STRATEGY

AT A time when multinational companies had 200 to 500 medical representatives, a small Filipino firm was trying to convince doctors to prescribe their drugs with only 20 sales people.

Their strategy was to appeal to the emotions of the doctors, saying that they represent a Filipino firm that produces unbranded yet competitive medicine at less than half the price of the multinational's products.

That was in 1990 and Pharex HealthCorp. general manager Beau G. Agana III says by 1998 they have "reached a critical mass and more doctors are into it."

Their sales force has also gone up to 100.

Pharex is one of only three generic firms whose products are sold in Mercury Drug stores.

Agana says they are the No. 1 prescribed generic drug firm in the country. He says that studies show that doctors prescribe Pharex medicines over other generic companies' products.

The other big local generic drug maker is Unilab through its Pediatrica.

But Agana says it was a hard climb. When the Generics Act was passed in the late 1980s which required doctors to write the generic names of the medications they were prescribing, many firms went into the manufacture of brand-less drugs.

But "generics did not take off as it should," says Agana and the firm had to go back to the doctors to promote generics.

Beau Agana of Pharex Health Corp.

JIM PUNZALAN

Although generic drugs were available in drug stores, he says nobody was buying them because nobody knew much about them and they had no track record to speak of.

Agana, who has worked in an advertising industry and with the Department of Health, was hired as a marketing manager in 1990 to promote Pharex to doctors.

He says their marketing budget then was nothing compared to the multinationals' and it was just through patience that they were able to get the doctors to prescribe their medicine.

"We had to adopt guerrilla tactics because we could not afford to market full force," he says.

It was only through continuous introductions of the medicines that they were able to gain market share.

The goal of Pharex is to become a household name says Agana and they will do this by continuing to work with the doctors. They also want to expand their product lines, in particular, to come up with a generic drug for hypertension as the ones available in the market today are very expensive.

He says they will not go the way of multinationals, which is investing heavily in advertising, as this will substantially increase medicine prices.

Previous reports and studies show that up to 30 percent of the cost of a medicine go to advertising.

"Once we start spending, our costs will go up. All our products are what Filipinos look for. We provide an alternative," he says.

But a key to their success is that Pharex has always put emphasis on having its marketing executive play a vital role in the company.

Agana points out that although their medicines cost much lower, the quality remains the same because it all goes through the USP standards set by the US.

Pharex is a subsidiary of Pascual Laboratorie. Its flagship brands include Betadine and Potencee and Glutaphos. It also has a firm that manufactures herbal medicines.

Tough times call for tough business solutions

THE KIND of market we have today simply dictates forceful and effective marketing approaches, said a start-up entrepreneur when asked how he intends to meet head-on existing competition in the industry he ventured into.

In essence, the statement summed up the strategic role of marketing especially in today's highly competitive and volatile business environment.

Add to this the fact that, in general, the consumer's purchasing power has not really gone up yet he has become very demanding because he knows "he is king", with the market offering him a wide array of choices in terms of products and services.

With this reality in the market, companies are thus always on the look-out for ways to delight the customer, anticipating him to declare "I shall return," nowadays perhaps the sweetest words that any establishment would love to hear (from a customer).

But just how does an establishment make its customers say, "I shall return"?

What are the ways to win the heart and mind of the essentially finicky customer who wants value for his money?

Indeed, with the market endlessly deluged with new products and innovations, achieving brand loyalty has become increasingly difficult, as attested by Bobby Dimayuga, marketing manager of Ecolab Philippines, considered a global leader in industrial sanitation and safety and chair of the Agora conference organized by the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA).

"Yes, tough times are the test of brand loyalty. Because of this, it pays to have an understanding of what it takes to have loyal customers not just by creating satisfied customers per se but, more importantly, highly satisfied customers and consumers," Dimayuga says.

According to Dimayuga, no doubt the times are tougher that everybody is looking for new strategies.

But as everybody is bent on coming up with his own strategy to put up with competition, the situation is by no means healthy.

As Josiah Go, president of Mansmith & Fielders, author of marketing books and one of the resource speakers in the Agora Conference, says: "Marketing strategies are getting to be on parity status, with an innovation in danger of being quickly imitated in no time."

"If you want to know the secrets of competitive advantage in good times and bad, the forthcoming Agora conference where no less than Agora awardees will be the speakers is just the right venue. Prepare to do battle; attend "The Art of Marketing Warfare," Dimayuga says.

(The Agora conference is scheduled for Oct. 10 and 11. Call the PMA secretariat at 892-3144, 893-7127 and 813-0466 for reservations.)

Taxpayers . . .

From page C2

returns, should directly file these returns with and pay their taxes directly to the BIR accredited banks.

Taxpayers should explore other options of tax payments, including the direct debit to account or the electronic tax payment prescribed in BIR Revenue Regulations No. 9-2002.

More secure

These payment modes appear to be more secure and if used, taxpayers can be more assured that their tax payments will go to the BIR, and not to the tax diversion syndicates. Anyway, at least for the meantime, while the tax syndicates have not yet learned how to beat the system.

(SGV & Co. will be holding a tax seminar entitled "Avoiding Tax Pitfalls" on Sept. 17, 2002. For more details about the seminar, please contact Betty Legarza at 8910307.)

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The golden past of today's industry leaders

Leaders all (from left): Richard Smith, Citigroup Private Bank Country Manager; Catherine Weir, Citibank Country Corporate Officer; Rafael Buenaventura, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor; Nina Aguas, Citibank Country Business Manager for Consumer Bank; and Hans Sicat, Salomon Smith Barney Chief Executive Officer.

Today, they stride the august halls of the business and financial sector, notable names that influence the intricate scenario of Philippine economy.

Not many people are aware, however, that they first charted the course of their illustrious careers in one institution - Citibank. This remarkable fact should not come as a surprise as Citibank has been in the Philippines for 100 years now, giving it more than enough time to nurture the careers of people who now shape the country's economic landscape.

Gerardo Ablaza, former Citibank Country Business Manager and now President and CEO, Globe Telecom

Back in 1961, Citibank launched its Executive Development Program, aimed to infuse its branches here and overseas with bright, young and aggressive MBA graduates. Graduates of this so-called UniverCiti of Banking were the Golden Boys, who today fill the rosters of top Philippine banks and other business operations as chief executive officers.

Among the most prominent of these is none other than Central Bank Governor Rafael Buenaventura (Class 1965). An MBA graduate from New York University, Buenaventura returned to Manila as a trainee of First National City Bank (which was what Citibank was then called).

The future Central Bank Governor became the first Asian International Staff of Citibank, charged to head various posts in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Hong Kong. He then returned home in 1982 to lead in the restructuring of the Philippine economy, which at that time was suffering from double-digit inflation and massive shortage of capital.

After the successful restoration of the procedures that revitalized the local banking system, he was then sent to Europe as senior vice president based in Milan. He had just been promoted to division executive when he finally relinquished his post because of a desire to go back home. For the next ten years, he assumed the post of Chief Executive Officer of the Philippine Commercial and International Bank until he was appointed Central Bank Governor in 1998.

> *"There was a culture of encouraging innovation, understanding and managing risks. There was emphasis on personal integrity which jived with the values of many. The Citibank training was not a one-time course. It was a program that created 'true' bankers."*

Of the Executive Training Program, Buenaventura said that it was "really an experiment." Instead of teaching banking over a period of years, Citibank believed that "if a person is bright, intelligent, and has a good academic background, he can be taught to be a bank officer in one year and given a position of responsibility immediately. Citibank had to fast-track because it needed more people, with the explosion of the bank's growth."

Another key hire is the current President and Chief Executive Officer of Globe Telecom, Gerardo Ablaza. A *summa cum laude* graduate of De La Salle University, Ablaza joined Citibank as Country Business Manager for the Consumer Bank. Under his stewardship, Citibank introduced a number of products and services that today serve as the bank's staple offerings to customers. Among these are the dollar checking account, a wide range of investment products and services and for the upscale clientele, the CitiGold Wealth Management Banking. Another Ablaza contribution was the spearheading of the development of Citibank's domestic ATM network in 1984, the technology that spawned in New York the slogan "The Citi Never Sleeps," after Citibank customers discovered they could bank at any hour of the day or night.

Leonilo Coronel, former Citibank Cebu Branch Manager and now Executive Director, Bankers Association of the Philippines

It's in the area of credit card distribution, however, that Citibank was able to reach out to the greatest number of customers. As Ablaza explained, "A few banks were already offering credit card service but this catered primarily to the privileged few. In a sense, we're the first to 'democratize' credit card usage by offering more affordable annual fees and lowering interest rates. Coupled with a robust working class, this has resulted in the explosion of Citibank customers who, for the first time, were able to appreciate the convenience of being credit cardholders."

The Citibank credit card has been, by far, the most successful among the Consumer Bank's offerings, making Citibank today the largest single bank issuer of credit cards. Ablaza served in the company for 14 years before joining Globe Telecom.

Meanwhile, in the shipping industry during the late 70s and early 80s, another luminary Citibanker was making a positive impact: Leonilo "Topper" Coronel. Then working as manager of the Citibank Cebu branch, Coronel saw the potential of investing in the local shipping industry. Under his management, the company actively participated in the expansion of major shipping lines headquartered there. Aboitiz Shipping Corporation received a loan of $4 million, while the funds of Sulpicio Lines was guaranteed by Citibank for $30 million. William Lines was awarded P29 million to acquire two ships, and another $5.6 million to finance a luxury liner.

"Citibank Cebu became the biggest lender in the shipping industry," recalled Coronel. "The big names in Cebu business usually became our clients." Such was the achievement of this manager, who also happened to be one of the Golden Boys of UniverCiti of Banking Class 1969, that he was sent to manage Citibank's Sri Lanka branch, which he held until he became the head of the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

In the area of community development service, another Citibank Golden Boy, Norberto Nazareno, now the chief executive officer of Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation, made significant impact through his professional extra-curricular activities. In the course of his nineteen-year long career, Citibank endorsed him to the Land Bank of the Philippines, where he helped develop the delivery of financial services to the countryside through the rural banking system. He also had stints in the Philippine Business for Social Progress, the Financial Executive Institute of the Philippines, and many other posts all encouraged by Citibank.

Asked what makes the Citibank training so effective, Nazareno explained that, "It goes beyond knowing and understanding the policies and procedures. There was a culture of encouraging innovation, understanding and managing risks. There was emphasis on personal integrity which jived with the values of many. The Citibank training was not a one-time course. It was a program that created 'true' bankers."

Norberto Nazareno, former Citicorp Vickers President and now CEO, Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Many other remarkable people have made significant contribution during their tenure at Citibank, and thus have made impact, one way or another, on the country's economic development since the 1960s when Filipino management brilliance was first encouraged to shine.

Such was the success of the company's training programs that industry executives admit that the top and middle management pools of the banks that emerged in the 50s, 60s, and 70s were composed mostly of former Citibankers.

Understandably, therefore, the recently held reunion of past Citibankers in commemoration of the company's first Philippine century had the atmosphere of a true Alumni homecoming - an air of camaraderie as evidenced by lots of hand-shaking, broad smiles and shoulder-tapping.

During the reunion, Gov. Buenaventura summed up the feeling of accomplishment for the whole alumni group when he said that, "It should be with a certain amount of pride on the part of Citibank to see the names of its former officers associated often with important events."

Undoubtedly, their achievements reflect the company's achievements, having continually placed itself at the center of the development of people, economy, and the country.

# of Banking Excellence

Having produced many of today's economic and banking leaders, pioneered a number of innovative products and services, and propelled financial trends through technology, Citibank looks back with pride at its accomplishments and moves forward into another century of banking excellence.

"Best Foreign Bank" gets thumbs up from customers

"Thanks to fierce market competition, I now have more credit cards than I need, some given to me for free by banks who want my business. But there's one that I carry wherever I go - my Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa. With worldwide acceptance, discounts and privileges, a generous rewards program and free insurance coverage, I never leave home without it."

-Mark Cho,
Finance Executive

Finance executive **Mark Cho**

These words from a satisfied Citibank cardholder may aptly sum up the sentiments of all the other loyal Citibank clients now numbering 700,000 strong and counting.

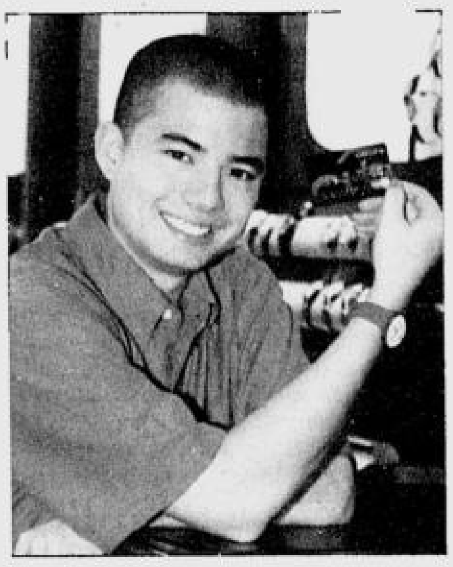
In fact, glowing commendations continue to pour in for the company that celebrates its Centennial anniversary this year. With the breadth and scale of its Philippine operations, product offerings and customer relationships consistently unsurpassed, Citibank was recently awarded by Finance Asia as the "Best Foreign Bank."

True to its reputation, Citibank continues to set the pace in the Philippine banking community by introducing a number of innovative features and benefits.

TV personality **Rovilson Fernandez**

In the area of credit cards, Citibank was the first to reward customers for their spending. A member earns points for all purchases, which he can use to redeem gift items, air miles for free trips or annual fee waivers. Other pluses for Citibank cards include the PayLite Installment Plan where cardholders can pay off expenses over 3 to 24 months at affordable rates and Gold Exclusives which gives Gold and Platinum cardholders valuable discounts, special perks, and other privileges at high-end stores, prime restaurants, and first-class hotels and resorts.

Recently, a number of known personalities shared to the public their reasons for putting Citibank first.


Advertising executive **Carlo Rufino**

"In this fast, self-serve age of technology we're living in, a credit card is very important especially when an accident arises. It's good to have a card that's accepted everywhere."

- Rovilson Fernandez,
athlete and host, Gameplan

"When I hang out with friends or shop with my girlfriend, it's a nice surprise to see discounts on my bill whenever I charge it to my Citibank card."

- Carlos Rufino,
model and
advertising executive

"I lead a very hectic and fast-paced lifestyle, and since I never have time to visit the bank and even ATMs, it's great to have this unique credit card that's accepted in almost any place I go to. I can rely on it, just on it alone."

- Pia Guanio,
Talk show host,
Magandang
Umaga Bayan

In retail banking services, Citibank has studied the unique needs of the affluent class across the region and sought ways on how to better handle their investment requirements and serve their aspirations. Early in the year, it launched the CitiGold Wealth Management Banking service, offering its upscale customers in Asia access to customized financial planning and portfolio tracking services.

Businessman **Ben Chan**

"As a CitiGold client, I have access to a team of experts that helps me understand my finances as well as I understand my customers."

- Ben Chan,
CEO, Bench,
Human and Dimensione

TV host **Pia Guanio**

Recently, the bank launched a breakthrough loan product where customers can borrow as little as P15,000 to as much as P1 million, payable over 12 to 36 months. The Citibank Installment Loan is a multi-purpose loan facility which one can tap for home or car repair, appliance purchases, medical expenses, and more.

"The speed with which Citibank processed my loan was really amazing. They didn't even require a collateral, co-maker or any initial deposit. It's the fastest way to get cash!"

- Catherine Lim,
homemaker

All these product and service innovations backed by enthusiastic testimonials from customers demonstrate why Citibank remains the undisputed industry leader. As it celebrates its centennial year in the Philippines, it continues to set the pace in the industry and goes to great lengths to satisfy customers and enhance their lifestyles.

Trailblazers in technology

On its Centennial year, Citibank continues to blaze trails and introduce breakthrough technologies to bring unmatched banking convenience to its customers.

Banking transactions seven days a week with the **24-Hour CitiPhone Banking.**

Two decades after it introduced the first Automated Teller Machine in the country, making day and night banking possible for its Filipino customers, Citibank now offers a host of round-the-clock services starting with the 24-Hour CitiPhone. Simply by calling 995-9999 in Metro Manila or 234-9999 in Metro Cebu, one can access his account 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Pioneered by Citibank, many banks have since followed suit, making similar customer hotlines available to clients.

Full-service online

With the advent of the Internet, Citibank launched Citibank Online Banking. By logging on to **www.citibank.com.ph,** Citibank credit cardholders and bank customers can transact instantly and conveniently right from their own homes or offices, or wherever they are in the world.

Citibank brings you your online link to worldwide financial news and information
Citibank Online Banking for instant stock info, world market updates, and economic news.

Want the latest stock quotes? The site also offers up-to-date financial information from the Phil. Stock Exchange, Dow Jones, Nasdaq and other Asian Markets including stock monitoring indices and charts, and news briefs that cover world updates, market developments, economic and policy-related news.

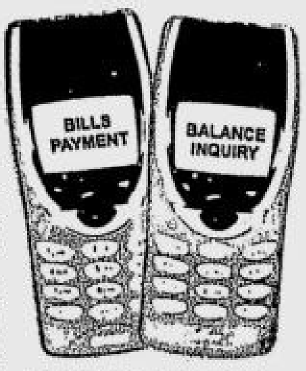
Electronic statements

Complementing Citibank Online is Electronic Statements which allows customers to get their bank and card statements online. Enroll your account and enjoy the convenience of being prompted online whenever your latest electronic statement is available. Plus, no need to keep files of previous statements as the service will allow you to view your three most recent statements.

Citibank Electronic Statements for online bank and card statements.

Banking on the go

For the text-crazy Filipino, Citibank has Mobile Banking which lets clients inquire their balance, transfer funds, request for a checkbook, pay bills, reload credit to their pre-paid phones and so much more simply by sending a text message from their mobile phones.



Mobile Banking service for access to your Citibank accounts using cellphones.

Whether wired or wireless, you can be sure Citibank will remain consistent with its commitment to tap new technologies to bring you world-class banking services, anytime and anywhere you need them.

CITIBANK
CitiDirect
Citibank Online Banking at the malls: transactions online, anytime, anywhere!

ADVT

PFXC's new printer line serves needs of SMEs, home offices

WITH the objective of capturing a significant market share of monochrome printer users, Philippine Fuji Xerox Corp. (PFXC) introduces two premium personal laser printers under its Phaser printer line: the Phaser 3110 and Phaser 3210.

These new Fuji Xerox Phaser printers combine excellent performance levels and convenient, cost-saving functions in a compact, desktop body. These have been developed to cater to the fast and efficient printing needs of small to medium enterprises and home offices.

"The market for monochrome printers is very substantial," said Jong Serrano, head of channel business operations of PFXC. "Our new Phaser 3110 and 3210 will provide end-users with the very basic, cost-effective products that nevertheless exhibit the best features in their class."

Capable of delivering 10 ppm (pages per minute) and 12 ppm, respectively, the Phaser 3110 and 3210 are ideal for businesses that rely heavily on black and white output alone. Powered by a robust 66MHz Risc processor, these printers also exhibit true 600-dpi and 1200-dpi resolution to match speed with crisp quality printing.

To take in more print jobs, the Phaser 3110 also has a memory capacity of 8MB, while the Phaser 3210's 4-MB memory can be upgraded up to a maximum of 68MB. This is particularly advantageous for different workgroups with shared printing needs.

Such efficiency is matched by different savings and convenience functions. These new Phaser printers have a Toner Save Button that automatically regulates ink flow for longer printing capacity. They also support a variety of printing options such as N-up, Poster and Watermarks. Plus, their compact design and small footprint, coupled with the lowest noise level, make them ideal space-saving trouble-free office equipment.

Compatibility is also not a problem since the Phaser 3110 and 3210 supports the most common operating systems such as Windows 95/98/NT4.0/Me/XP, Linux Red Hat 6.0 and up, and Mac OS 8 and up. Standard connections are the IEEE 1284 Parallel and USB ports.

The introduction of these two new printers indicates Fuji Xerox's commitment to cover a wide spectrum of markets with its brand of digital office solutions, ranging from the most complex multifunction machines down to the basic office requirements.

INNER WHEEL CLUB BOARD MEETS

A special board meeting to discuss the details of the Inner Wheel Club of Manila (IWC) Bazaar on Nov. 10 at the Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental Manila in Makati was held. The bazaar aims to raise funds to support the different projects of IWCM. The board of IWCM is headed by Nati Aventura, president. Shown are board members, seated, from left, 1st vice president Kasuko Zenarosa, Cris Austria, Aventura, past president Tess Castro, and 2nd vice president Marivic Concepcion. Standing, from left, are assistant treasurer Norma Mondenedo, Myrna Hallare, treasurer, Nenuca Biardony, director Leuny Reyes, and assistant secretary Marissa Fenton.

A Dancesport show for a cause

DANCESPORT enthusiasts will be treated to an evening of Latin-inspired dine-and-dance show "Ritmo da Vida" on Sept. 16, 7 p.m. at the Savannah Moon in Libis, Quezon City.

The benefit show will feature two of the world's best Dancesport atheletes – Slavik Kryklyvyy and Karina Smirnoff.

Slavik and Karina championed in the US National Professional Latin competition and emerged finalists at the Blackpool 2002 British Open Championship.

They also bagged the third prize in the World Professional Latin-American Championship held recently in Miami.

Come Monday, Slavik and Karina will be dancing the five dances of Latin-American repertoire including ChaChaCha, Rumba, Samba, Paso Doble and the Jive.

Part of the production proceeds will go to the drug rehabilitation projects initiated by the Philippine Center for Substance Abuse Management.

The sponsors of the show are PLDT My DSL, PLDT Vibe Internet, Lactacyd feminine hygiene and Lactaderm protective cleansing milk. For tickets, call 638-0566 and 0916-4002696.

FIRST LIFE CALLS ON CHINA'S TOP INSURER

First Guarantee Life Assurance Co. Inc. (First Life) president and CEO Peter Coyiuto (second from left) and executive vice president, actuary and COO Jaime Santiago (second from right) met with executives of Ping An Insurance Company of China, mainland's insurance giant. Shown are Ping An's chair and chief executive officer Peter MZ Ma PhD (center), vice president Helena Wang (extreme left), and general manager CF Shen. Ping An dominates the domestic insurance market with its 28-percent share of the life business and 10 percent of non-life.

MABUHAY MILES WELCOMES RESORT PARTNER

Philippine Airlines' new frequent flyer program Mabuhay Miles recently welcomed Maribago Bluewater Beach Resort as one of its partners. Mabuhay Miles members earn a minimum 500 miles on qualifying room night stays at the resort. Signing the agreement are (from left) Margie Munsayac, Maribago Bluewater vice president for sales and marketing, Felix Cruz, PAL vice president for marketing, and Joy Lynn Pasillao, PAL assistant vice president for products.

SHDA
BUSINESS MEETING
AUGUST 28, 2002 · SHANGRI-LA HOTEL MAKATI
Guest Speakers: ATTY. WINSTON F. GARCIA
MR. ARNALDO C. CUASAY

SHDA LAUDS GSIS HOUSING COMMITMENT

GSIS President and General Manager lawyer Winston Garcia (6th from left) announced the availability of some P18 billion GSIS funds for housing under the GSIS Bahay Ko Program during the SHDA business meeting Aug. 28. Shown are SHDA and GSIS officials (from left) Mariano D. Martinez Jr., SHDA board adviser, Linda Tan, SHDA governor, Fely Ramos, SHDA treasurer, Willie J. Uy, SHDA second vice president, Jesus B. Atencio, SHDA national president, Garcia, lawyer Teofisto Guingona III, SHDA chair of the board, Dan Cuasay, GSIS senior vice president for housing, and Bing Alvarez, SHDA governor.

PWWA exhibitor CUP-awarded

AQUACLEAN/JY Deauna & Company was one of the participants/exhibitors in the convention and product exhibition sponsored by the Philippine Waterworks Association (PWWA) in Sarabia Hotel, Iloilo City Sept. 3 to 6. According to Dr. Jovito Y. Deauna, multi-awarded inventor of Aquaclean Water Filtration System and president and CEO of Aquaclean/JY Deauna & Co., the company displayed its complete ready-to-operate water refilling station (WRS) package that is especially designed for the anticipated El Niño phenomenon. The complete WRS package conserves water in the treatment and filtration process by minimizing waste in producing the drinking water, according to the Philippine National Standards for drinking water prescribed by the Department of Health. The package also includes the store design, label and signboard design, complete water treatment and purification equipments and the installation, testing of water, technical training, promotion, membership in the Water Quality Association, marketing support and the compliance with the government licensing requirements. The package also includes the pedal-controlled bottle sanitizer and filling sink, the patented invention of Deauna that conforms with the requirements of implementing rules and regulations (IRR) in the operation of water stores set by the Department of Health.

Deauna also gave a free orientation seminar on "How to Set-up a Successful Water Refilling Station" to interested parties, and handed out free reading materials to those who visited booth 18 at the exhibit site. Aquaclean/JY Deauna & Company (453-0421) with offices and showroom at 72 Road 20, Project 8, Quezon City, was installed in the Hall of Fame as the Most Outstanding Manufacturer and Installer of Complete Ready-To-Operate Water Refilling Station by the Consumers Union of the Philippines (Cup) because of the quality of its equipment and excellent aftersales service the company gives to its clients in ceremonies held at the Manila Hotel recently.

BITS & Clips

City Media Challenge Sponsors Day

AS A MID-season activity, the City Media Challenge held its annual Sponsor's Day Aug. 27 at the Café Provencal, SM Megamall. The event provided participants and sponsors with a venue for strengthening camaraderie. Part of the program also included product presentations from the sponsors. The third round of the City Media Challenge is slated to run on Sept. 14, Saturday, at the Liwasang Ipi-Ipil of the CCP Complex in Manila. The City Media Challenge is presented by Honda Cars Philippines Inc. and co-presented by Caltex Vortex and Havoline. Other sponsors include Michelin, through its distributor Tiarra Commercial and Industrial Corp. for the tires; Aitech for the car stickers; and Nodalo's Trading for the car modifications. The event is organized by ADBM Resources in partnership with Activity Asia Association and Roadwise Motoring School. For more details about the event, call 813-2682.

Christmas bazaar

AFTER the phenomenal success of last year's bargain extravaganza, the Chosen Children Village Foundation and Abot Pangarap Foundation Inc. will once again stage the Merry Merchants Bazaar on Sept. 15 at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. The pre-Christmas fair showcases a wide variety of trendy and reasonably priced products from among the country's leading brands, factors which have made it a popular bazaar. The bazaar is intended to raise much-needed funds for the organizations' respective projects. Hopes are high for a repeat of the huge success of last year's maiden event. The Merry Merchant's Bazaar is sponsored by Philippine Airlines, Directory Phils. Corp., Mondial, Time Square, Jollibee, Aboitiz Group Foundation, Chat Peypoch, 99.5 RT, Citylite 88.3 and Henkel Philippines. For more information call Cecile Dimapilis at 832-1546 / 831-3627 or fax 832-2760.

RP DELEGATION TO APEC IT CAMP

A Philippine delegation composed of government officials and youth with disabilities recently participated in the Apec IT Camp in Seoul, South Korea. Shown are (from left, first row) Nelia de Jesus of the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons, councilor Bernardito C. Ang, City Council of Manila, Victor John Javier of the Adaptive Technology for the Rehabilitation, Integration and Empowerment of the Visually Impaired, and director Martha Hernandez, Tesda. Second row, from left, are Marvenice Asuncion of Bagac Bataan, Roden Zalamaeda, STI Kalentong, Leonora Dalay, Bigay-Buhay Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Wilfredo Estorias, Brian Sitjar, NCWDP technical staff, and Marinela Veras, Manila Christian Computer Center for the Deaf.

AIZA SEGUERRA JOINS ALAY LAKAD

Aiza Seguerra (center) provided the main entertainment number for this year's Alay Lakad held recently. With here are (from left) Pol Maleniza of NYC, Jaycees' Ramfel Preclaro, Secretary Dinky Soliman, Charlie Martinez, Assistant Secretary Celia Yangco of DSWD and Alay Lakad president Frank Evaristo.

Baby
Shan-La

BABY MAGAZINE FEATURES TRADE FAIR

Baby Magazine is marking its 6th anniversary with the staging of the 2nd Baby Magazine National Baby Congress at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall from Oct. 4 to 6. The three-day event will feature a complete trade fair of baby products and infant clothes and accessories, and during which period participating baby specialty stores will go on sale. The event includes a lecture series on pregnancy, childbirth and child development as well as a baby photo exhibit of the works of some of the country's renowned photographers. Shown are Shangri-la Plaza executive vice president and general manager Lala Fojas, Marathon Publishing Company president Chet Espino and event organizer Rita Neri during the recent contract signing. For inquiries and registration, call 840-1897 and 893-0534.

STC Manila HS '68 reunion

ALUMNAE of St.Theresa's College, Manila, High School '68 will hold Groovy Reunion on Saturday, Sept. 14 at the Traders Hotel on Roxas Boulevard from 2 to 6 p.m. A 15-minute solo performance of Sampaguita, a former Theresian of the same batch, will highlight the event. All alumnae residing in Manila are urged to attend and be part of the class photo to be taken during the afternoon. Other interested Theresians and their families are welcome to the reunion. Tickets at P500 each are available from Didith Fajardo-Lee (636-0039, 637-6052) and Kit Soriano (723-4408, 0917-5347432).

How . . .

From page C8

"We also thought about showing friendship, of camaraderie which are also Filipino values," adds Deslate.

After the copywriters completed the text, then came art director Wilwayco who was tasked with translating the idea into something visual, in this case a storyboard that would eventually appear on screen.

With the storyboard of art director Wilwayco completed, it was time for the actual shoot and the job went to veteran director Jun Urbano who is more popularly known today as Mr. Shoo-li of the Mongolian Barbecue show.

"I thought of making the people who would watch the commercial feel that they are looking into a typical group who was out for a drink. It was an easy shoot," says Urbano, who is known in advertising circles, for finishing a job on time, all the time.

The hard work paid off and Isang Platitong Mani became an instant hit and the messages of friendship and good times endure.

"I believe that it still appeals to people because it is connected with the Filipino psyche," Urbano says.

Urbano laments the fact that many advertising practitioners today tend to lose touch with the Filipino psyche in the way commercials are made. Many tend to get inspiration from Western ideas and Western ways that do not really appeal to the common tao.

Isang Platitong Mani, however, proves that just being Filipino works in making a landmark commercial. It worked then and it will still work today.

Retail . . .

From page C8

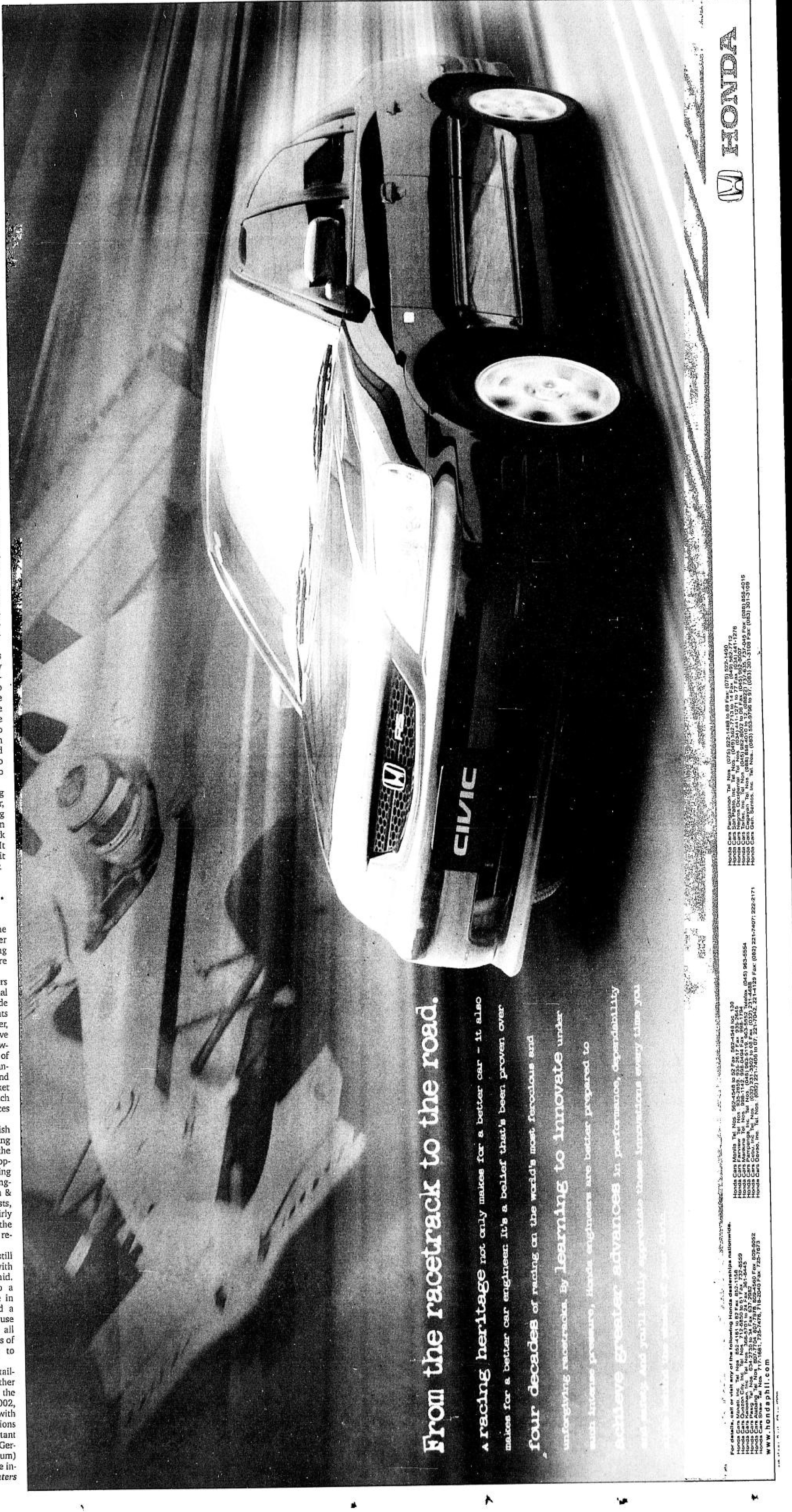
would rather see the Wal-Mart sign rather than the trading names they were used to."

Other big movers in the provisional 2001 list include home improvements group Kingfisher, which slipped five places to 16th following the demerger of its general merchandise division, and French supermarket chain Casino, which moves two places higher to 14th.

Although British groups are riding high in many of the sector rankings, topping the clothing (M&S), DIY (Kingfisher) and Health & Beauty (Boots) lists, Mintel issues a fairly stern warning on the health of the UK retail sector.

Britons were still "spending with abandon," it said. "This has led to a frightening surge in indebtedness and a boom in house prices which has all the characteristics of a bubble about to burst."

European retailers, on the other hand, had seen the worst by mid-2002, Mintel said, with sales in most regions (with the important exceptions of Germany and Belgium) once again on the increase. *Reuters*


HONDA
CIVIC
From the racetrack to the road.
A racing heritage not only makes for a better car - it also makes for a better car engineer. It's a belief that's been proven over four decades of racing on the world's most ferocious and unforgiving racetracks. By learning to innovate under such intense pressure, Honda engineers are better prepared to achieve greater advances in performance, dependability
www.hondaphil.com

Retail rankings show food sellers getting fatter

LONDON—Europe's retail sector may only now be emerging from the economic doldrums, but compared with most industries it is in the rudest of health, as the big league gets bigger and middleweights merge in a bid to join them.

Figures released by Mintel Retail Intelligence on Monday show few changes from 2000 in Europe's retail top 20 rankings, a list dominated by French, German and British supermarket chains.

Leading the pack by a huge distance is still France's Carrefour, the world's second largest retailer after US titan Wal-Mart—itself present at 12th place in the European sales league.

Carrefour's 2001 sales of 64.3 billion euros ($63.10 billion) dwarf those of Tesco , the top UK supermarket chain whose 2001 sales came in at 35.76 billion euros.

Report

The 338-page Mintel report "European retail rankings 2002" attempts to provide an accurate basis for ranking the continent's 250 leading retail groups by stripping out sales taxes, non-European sales and other distortions.

Although Mintel itself ranks the top 250 in order of sales for the 2000 financial year, the company provided Reuters with data which made possible a provisional ranking for 2001.

It is no surprise that food retailers dominate the sales rankings, satisfying as they do the most basic needs of the consumer and occupying no less than 13 of the top 20 places.

Top 20

In fact, all of the top 20 high-street giants sell food in one form or another, although for some, like British Marks & Spencer at 19th place, it accounts for only about half of total 2001 sales of 11.68 billion euros.

Although consolidation continues apace among the middle-ranking retailers, the days of the mega-merger among the top players appear to be over, with competition concerns blocking a lot of potentially attractive deals.

Consequently, while many of the top 20 rankings are unchanged from the previous year, Dutch supermarkets group Ahold crept up three places in 2001 by dint of a series of smaller deals.

"Ahold has continued its aggressive program of smaller-scale acquisitions and is the role model for successful internationalization," Mintel said in its report.

"There is none of the corporate arrogance that characterized the Carrefour-Promodes deal, or that led Wal-Mart to suppose that the Germans

RETAIL/C7

How the greatest Filipino ad of the past 50 years was made

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE COMMERCIAL was only 30 seconds long, but it still strikes a chord in people's hearts close to 20 years after it was aired.

And for that the "Isang Platitong Mani" commercial made by Philippine Advertising Counsellors for food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. was judged the best local ad of the past 50 years during the recent Pilak Awards of the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines.

For those who were too young to remember, the commercial opens with Filipino greats Rico J. Puno (singer), Bert Marcelo (comedian), Gabriel Elorde (boxer), Jose "Amang" Parica (billiards player) and Eduardo Domingo (jockey) arguing over what was the best *pulutan* to go with San Miguel Beer.

The late Gabriel "Flash" Elorde put an end to the argument by asking the waiter for "*isang platitong mani* (a saucer of peanuts)" and everybody laughed as they raised their bottles of beer. The commercial closed with the line "San Miguel Beer, Ito ang Beer."

The distinction caught the creative group led by then PAC creative director Nita Claravall by surprise. The ad was chosen out of 100 ads.

The final list of 25 best ads went through four sets of judges.

The creative minds behind the commercial were Claravall, copywriters Romy Sinson and Julius Deslate, art director Edwin Wilwayco, producer Jun Castro, account manager Adie Peña, Director Jun Urbano and musical scorer Mike Pedero.

ONCE more with feeling for the creative team behind the "Isang Platitong Mani" commercial. (From left) Julius Deslate, Romy Sinson, Jun Urbano, Edwin Wilwayco and Nita Claravall (seated).

Business Friday recently sat down with the group behind the commercial, most of whom have moved on to different firms, to discuss the making of "Isang Platitong Mani."

It was a reunion of sorts for them and they can still remember how it was crafted as though it was just done yesterday.

"We developed the commercial at a time when the market was being invaded by other beer brands both local and foreign, so we sat down and we thought that if there was any beer that deserved to be called beer, it was San Miguel Beer, so our copywriters came up with the line 'Ito ang beer,'" Claravall says in an interview.

The brainstorming session was typically long, but they knew they had a winner when Sinson came up with "Ito ang Beer."

PAC was the biggest local advertising agency at that time and it handled the San Miguel accounts that included Gold Eagle, San Miguel Pale Pilsen, Royal True Orange and Magnolia. It came out with the ad to defend San Miguel's position in the market when Lucio Tan's Asia Brewery Inc. came up with Beer na Beer that looked exactly like SMB and which many claim even taste like San Miguel Beer.

With the general idea of "Ito ang Beer" in mind, Claravall and a colleague went to meet with top SMC officials Francisco Eizmendi and Jose Garcia to present the idea.

"It was an unheard of presentation because we did not have any storyboard, just a piece of folded bond paper with the words 'Ito ang Beer,'" says senior copywriter Romy Sinson.

The unconventional presentation, however, still managed to bring the point across and as Eizmendi said at that time, "it (the idea) packs a wallop."

With the approval from the client, the PAC group went to work. It first came out with two commercials under the "Ito ang Beer" campaign before it came up with Isang Platitong Mani.

"What we wanted for this commercial was to portray the message that San Miguel was the only real beer in the market, so we got Filipino personalities who were the benchmarks or the last word in their respective fields," Claravall says.

For example if you say singer, it was Rico Puno and if you think boxer, it would be Flash Elorde. In the same way, we wanted people to think San Miguel Beer when they thought of beer," Claravall adds.

Sinson, who was creative group head at that time, got in touch with his Filipino side and crafted crisp dialogue for the commercial.

"We wanted it to be humorous because Filipinos are full of humor. We laugh about everything, so we wanted to portray that in the commercial. We wanted it to be very Filipino," he says.

HOW/C7

MALAMPAYA may be 350 kms. away from these children...
...but plays an essential part in their lives.
ICC/UNEP AWARDS 2002
MALAMPAYA
DEEP WATER GAS TO POWER
PNOC

Malampaya represents the most significant industrial investment in our nation's history. Not only does it provide a cleaner source of energy, it also paves the way for sustainable economic development programs to reach every Filipino home.

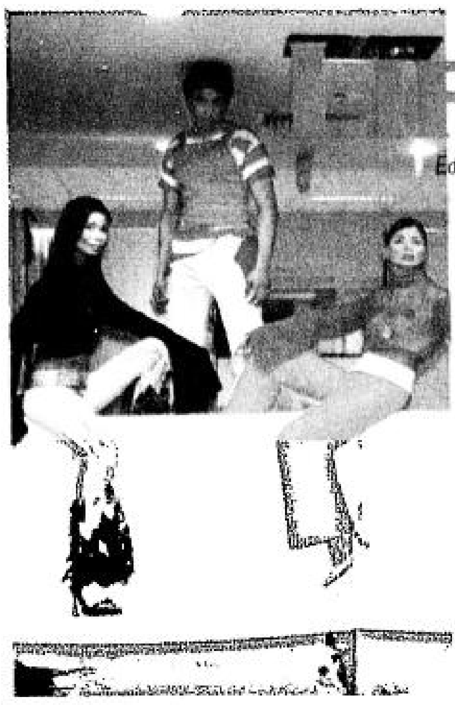
For these children, Malampaya will provide unparalleled revenues much needed by the Philippine government to build them a school, a hospital to take care of their family, business and road infrastructures that will help fast track the economic development of their community.

It is because of this commitment that Malampaya was awarded the **World Summit Business Award for Sustainable Development Partnerships** by the **International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)** and the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. For Malampaya is not just about producing natural gas; it is about helping us meet our needs today without compromising our children's future.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



Power of three

Story on page D4

Trend Spotting

Fashion bend for the style-dutiful

Story on page D2

Sleeker shades for a brighter world

Story on page D3

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Fashion bend for the style-dutiful

ANNETTE Coronel-Cruz has never looked better. She's back on the ramp and on fashion editorial pages—on the cover of magazines even. And she's about to reach the Big 4-0. Having dabbled in fashion directing and line-producing events, Annette is back on the fashion forefront. Yet she still considers her personal life her main profession. Annette is wife to media man Monch Cruz and a mother to three kids.

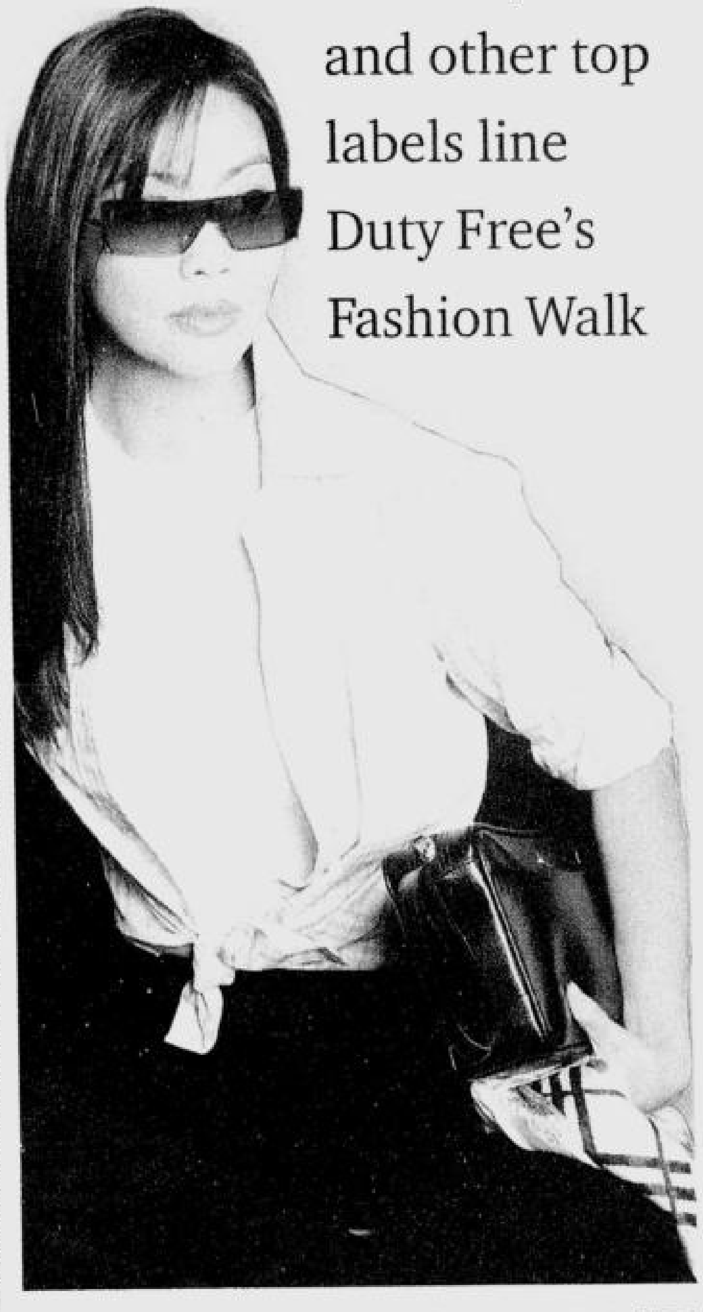
"My office is in the house. All my work happens in my own space and in my own time," says Annette of her workplace. From dealing with clients or bonding with her kids, her working hours keep her flexible. With a workload like hers, one couldn't be too far from seeking comfort. So such a busy lifestyle demands a wardrobe that is both stylish yet comfortable. "I easily get bored with shopping. For me, only the classics deserve the second look."

A label that defines her demands very well is Burberry. Its trademark red, tan and black plaid and its classy yet utilitarian cuts distinguish the label. It is very Annette—intelligent and professional, with an image that speaks of tradition and family. "Burberry is Burberry. It's classic, it's simple, and it's timeless."

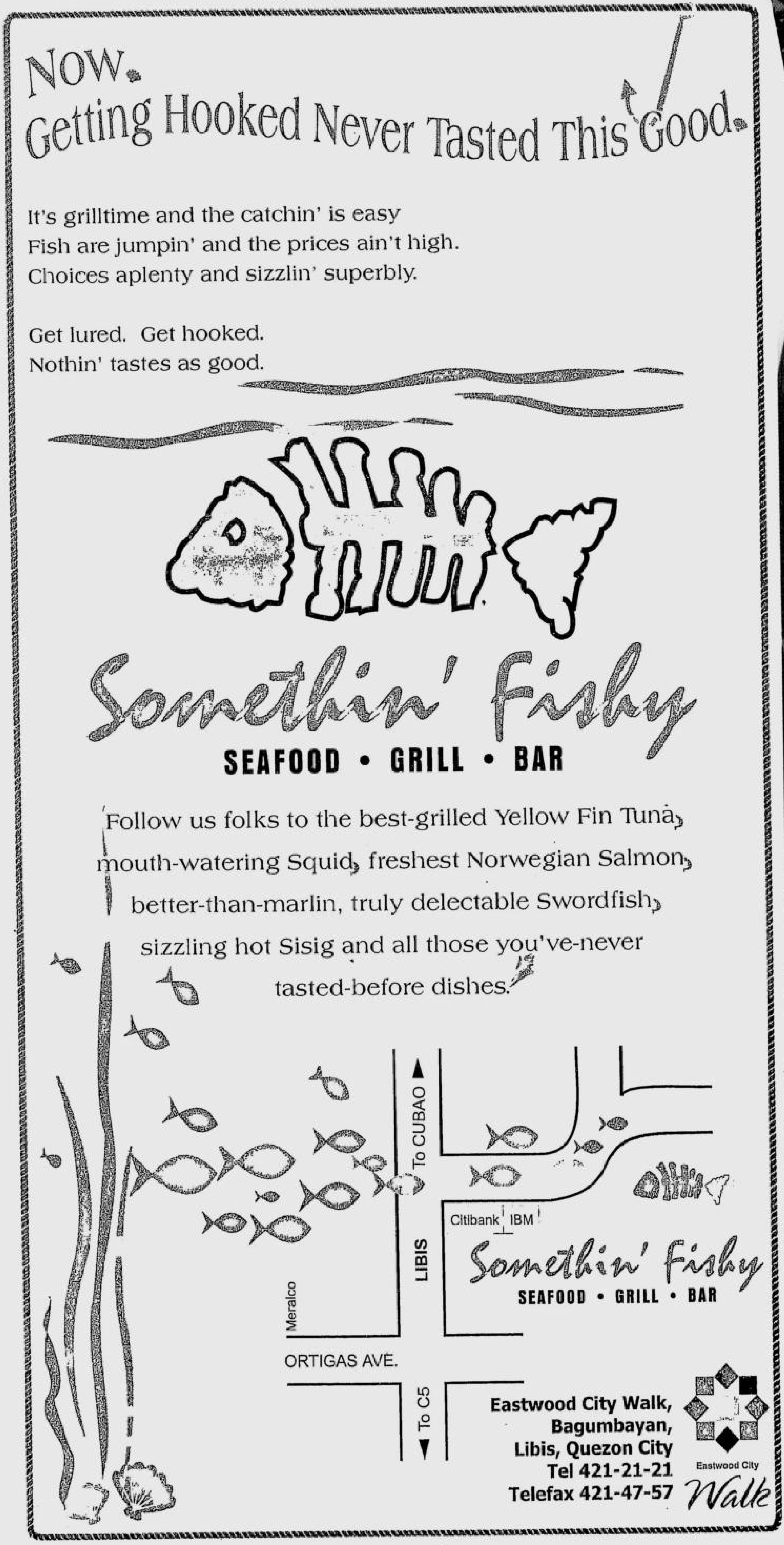
Indeed, the season's newest on-the-rack power pieces are in Duty Free's Fashion Walk, some of which couldn't be seen anywhere else in the country. But everything is selling for a fraction of the regular freestanding boutiques. "We want to make people see beyond Duty Free's *pasalubong* image," said Duty Free general manager Michael Kho. "We want to attract more of the regular travelers to shop here. We have the finest names—from chocolates to liquors to clothing—and we have the best deals to match them."

To anyone looking for style and substance in their lives, taking the cue from Annette Coronel-Cruz could be promising. And they could always begin with the clothes. From the finest fashion to the most affordable prices, one shouldn't have to search farther than at the Fashion Walk of Duty Free.

Duty Free's Fashion Walk is located at the Duty Free Philippines Fiesta Mall, Parañaque City.



Burberry and other top labels line Duty Free's Fashion Walk



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Sportswear label searches for image model

FUBU (For Us By Us), the $400-million sportswear empire and one of the original and hottest, has just signed male model Tyson Beckford to endorse its clothing line in the US. Beckford was a teen when he was spotted by a talent agent and was asked to try modeling. From this chance encounter, Beckford has become universally recognized as a male supermodel. Epitomizing the look and attitude of the brand, Fubu signed up Beckford as the image model for their latest collection.

Following its US counterpart, Fubu Philippines has begun its search for the country's first-ever Fubu image model. The Fubu crew has been bouncing around the top campuses in the metro looking for the right person. The search has covered male students from the following schools: University of the Philippines, De La Salle University, Ateneo de Manila University, DLSU-College of St. Benilde, De La Salle Aguinaldo Dasmariñas, University of Santo Tomas, St. Benedict's College, San Beda College and the University of Asia and the Pacific.

The Fubu Image Model Search is open to all young men aged 18-25 years old, at least 5'7" in height, with a good physique and, more importantly, one who can wear Fubu with a distinct attitude. The winner will receive P10,000 in cash plus a whole year's supply of Fubu gear. Aside from the chance to model, the winner will also be a VIP in all Fubu parties and events and will have the distinction of being the country's first Fubu image model.

Application forms are available from the Fubu student representatives in the schools listed above and at any of the Fubu outlets: Power Plant Mall, The Podium, SM Southmall, Robinsons Pampanga and Glorietta 3 Ayala Center. Call 400-2387 or 522-5268.

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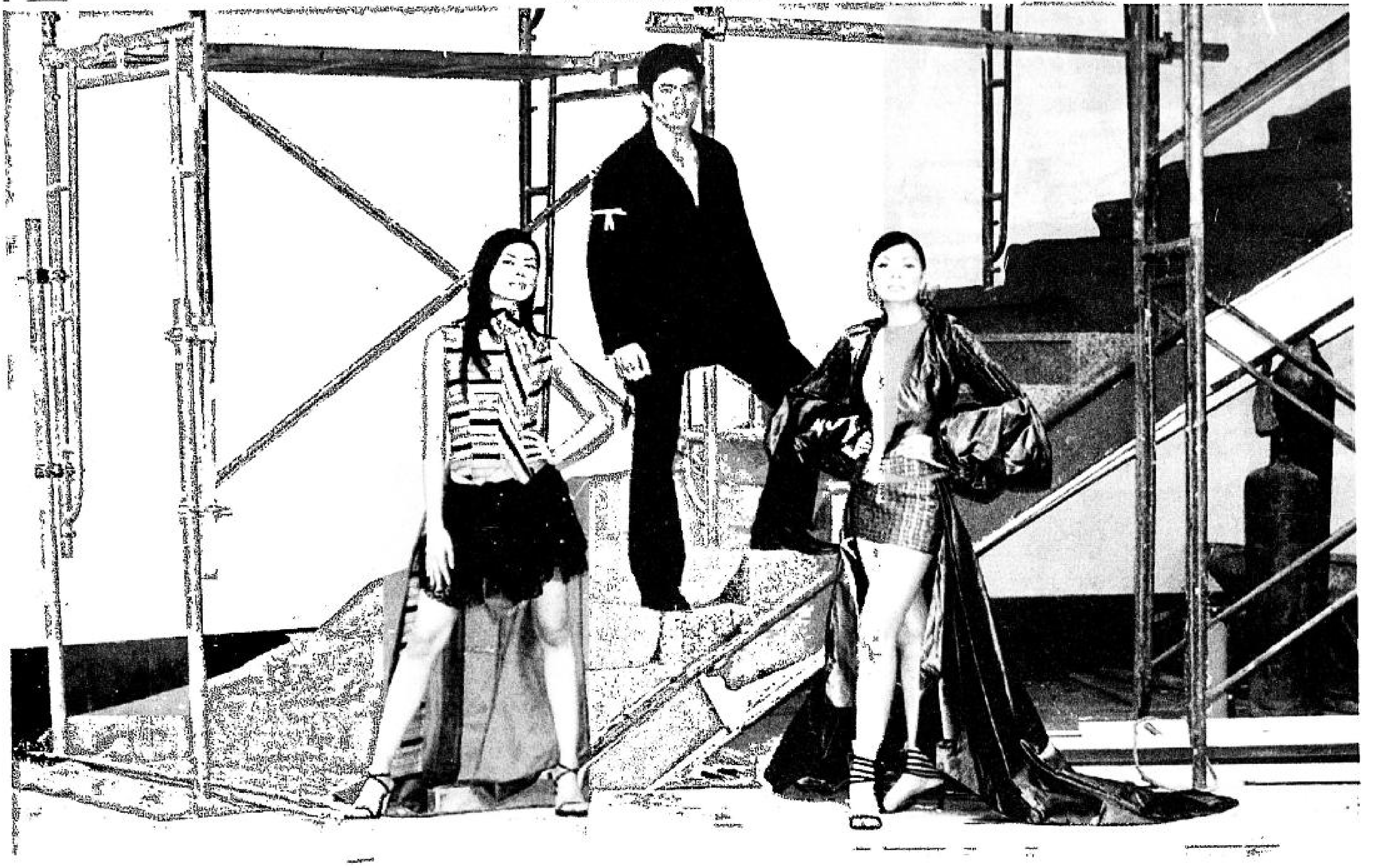
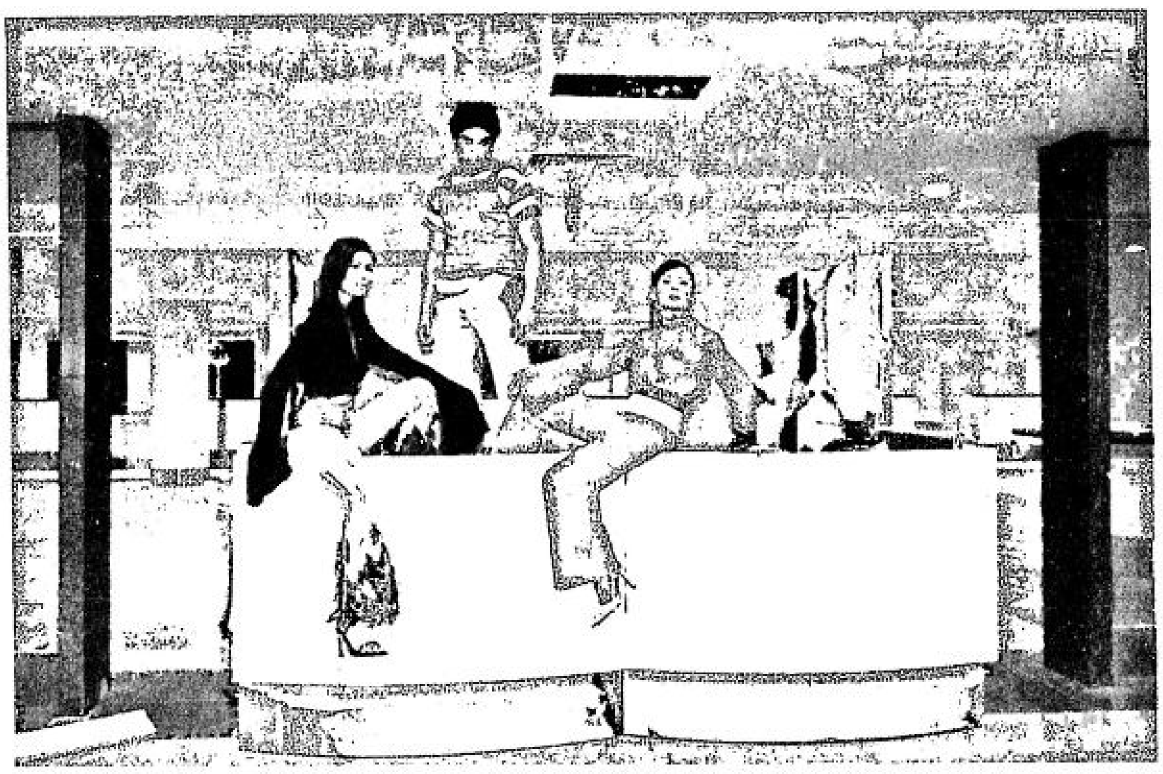


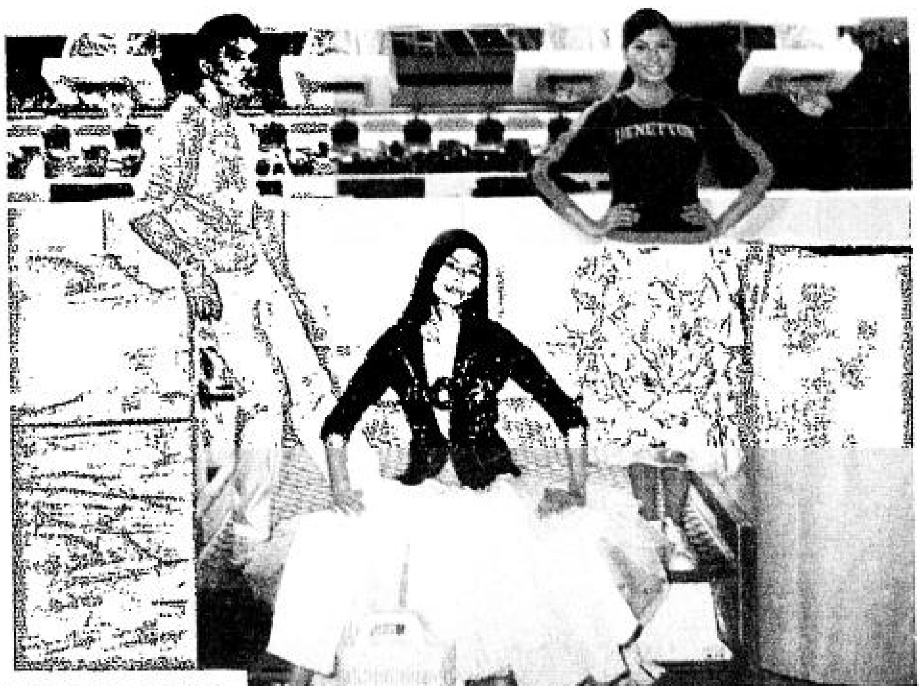
MODELS MANANQUILS. Raya and Rissa in Rajo Laurel, Robby in Wink Rhett Eala men's collection

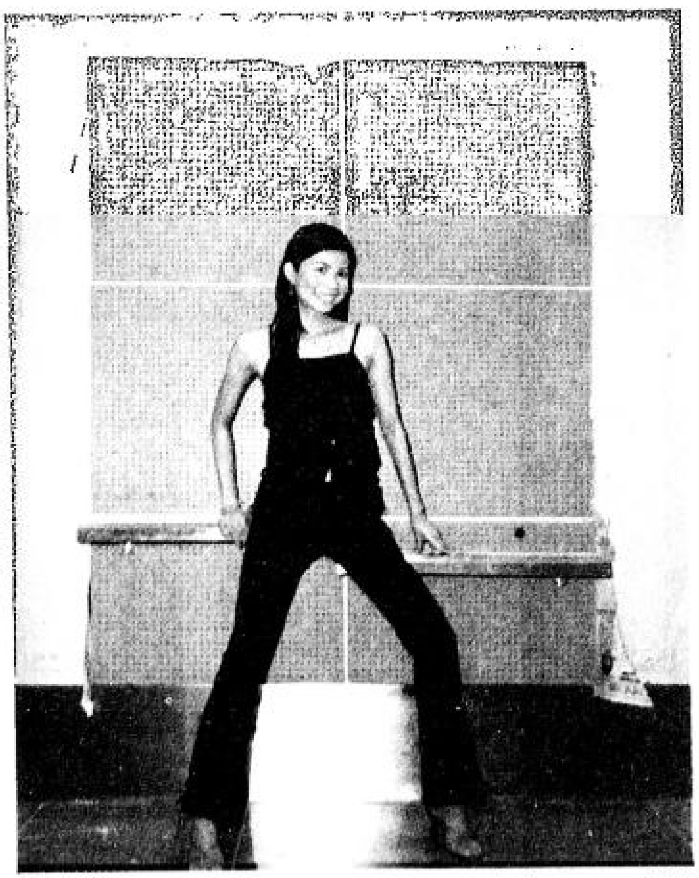
Power of three

M3 AT T3. Check-in time with Robby in a lime green Bench tee and Rhett Eala pants. Raya is in a Folded & Hung denim jacket and beaded top, pleated skirt and sneakers from Mich Dulce, while Rissa is in a Benetton sweatshirt, Mich Dulce draped treated canvas skirt and sneakers.

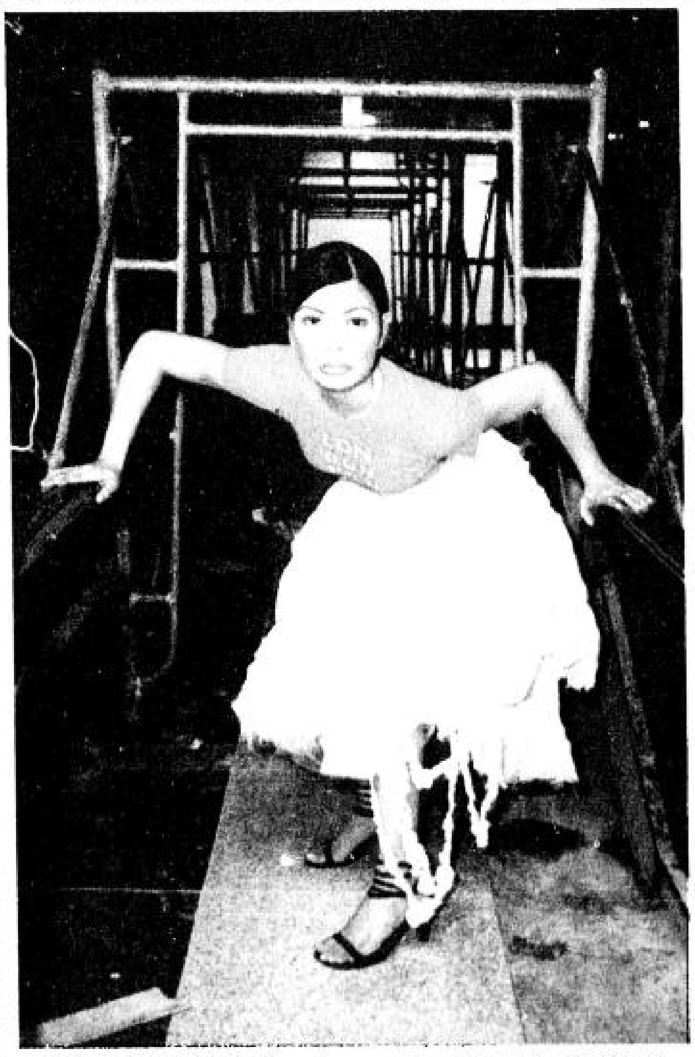


CONTROVERSIAL COUNTER. Raya is in a black top with bell sleeves and denim pants with studs and peacock feathers from Wink Rhett Eala, gold belt from Folded & Hung, while Rissa is in a Benetton shirt, see-through fuchsia top and orange pants by Wink Rhett Eala. Robby is in a striped shirt and gray undershirt from Bench and pants from Wink Rhett Eala.

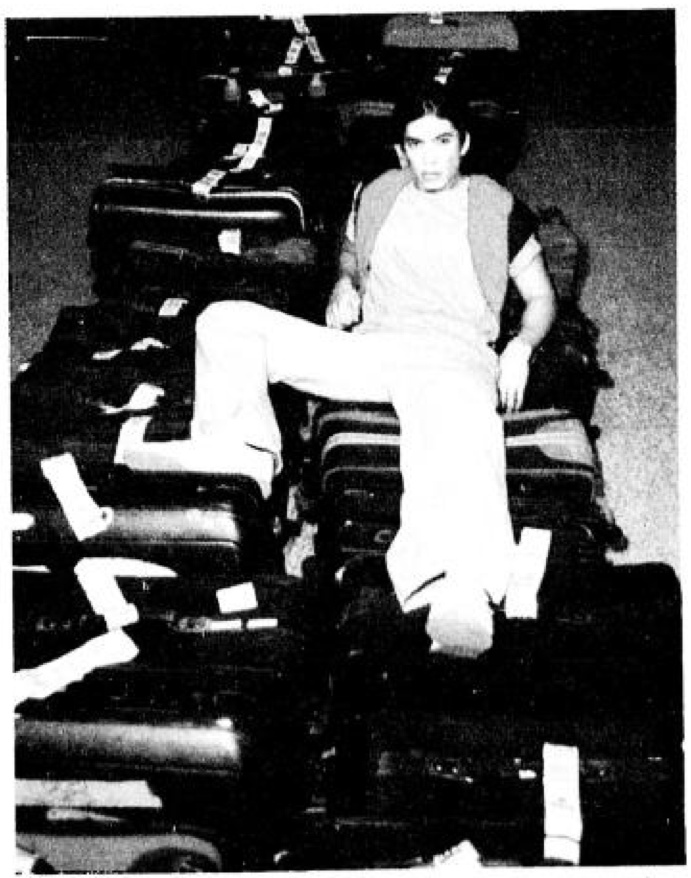




RAYA OF LIGHT. The youngest of the Mananquil sibs wears an F&H fringed top and denim pants from the Holiday 2002 collection.



REESE IS THE WORD. Rissa Samson in red Benetton shirt and Ivarluski Aseron rope and gauze skirt

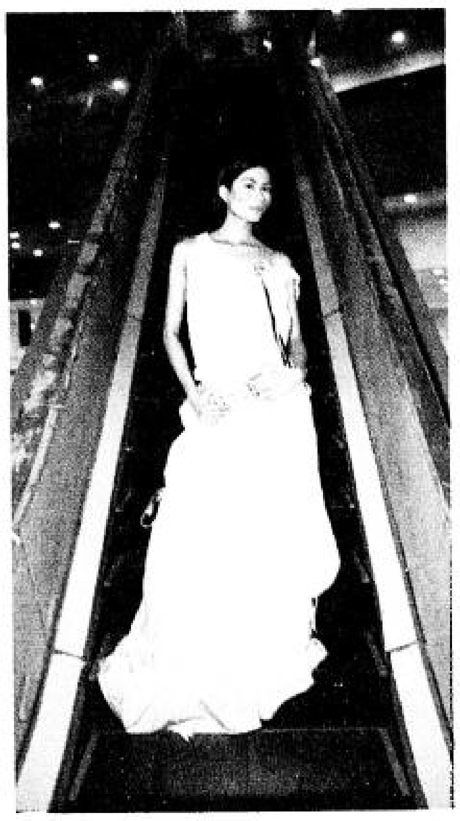


LUG IN, LUG OUT. Robby in a Bench tee and khaki pants as he waits for his turn to check in at the Naia 3 terminal.

The Mananquil siblings—Rissa, Robby and Raya—have great genes and great moves

Text by Tim Yap
Photos by Mike Alquinto

DON'T hate them because they're beautiful. At first glance what you'll see are the high cheekbones, great skin, toned muscles and that head-turning "it" factor, but the Mananquil siblings—fraternal twins Robby and Rissa, 23, and Raya 21—have more than drop-dead gorgeous looks.



STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN. Raya Mananquil at the foot of the Naia 3's escalator in a pristine white gown by James Reyes

Sure, their faces are all over town, from Edsa to South Superhighway to God knows where—Robby's pensive "try me" Bench stare, Raya's sunny-summer smile for Folded & Hung, and Rissa's youthful Benetton global campaign.

Catwalk stardom

But beyond the media attention, the three are driven, hardworking and down-to-earth young adults.

Rissa, the most visible among the three with her hosting jobs for Fashion TV, started out wearing tutu and pointe shoes. "I was seriously contemplating on not attending college here and instead going to Russia to study ballet. As in, I really wanted to be the next Lisa Macuja."

Robby, on the other hand, was more inclined toward art and music. He finished fine arts in UP (the Pinoy icon portraits in Mangan are some of his works) and had a rock band when he was an exchange student in Norway.

Raya, the youngest, had her roots in theater. She was one of Helen Keller's friends in the Rep production of "The Miracle Worker." Now an interdisciplinary studies senior at the Ateneo, where she is a dean's lister just like her siblings were when the twins were in college, she has not lost sight of her priorities. "A lot of times I've had to say no to fashion shows because of my classes," she said.

It was director Ariel Lozada who discovered

POWER/ p.D7

PASSPORTS, PLEASE. Robby is in a Bench striped tee and capri pants. Rissa is in an LZ Punzalan embellished top and mini skirt while Raya is in a top by LZ Punzalan and skirt by Rajo Laurel.

STYLING:
TIM YAP AND DARA DAVID
MAKEUP:
XING ZULUETA OF SHU UEMURA
LOCATION:
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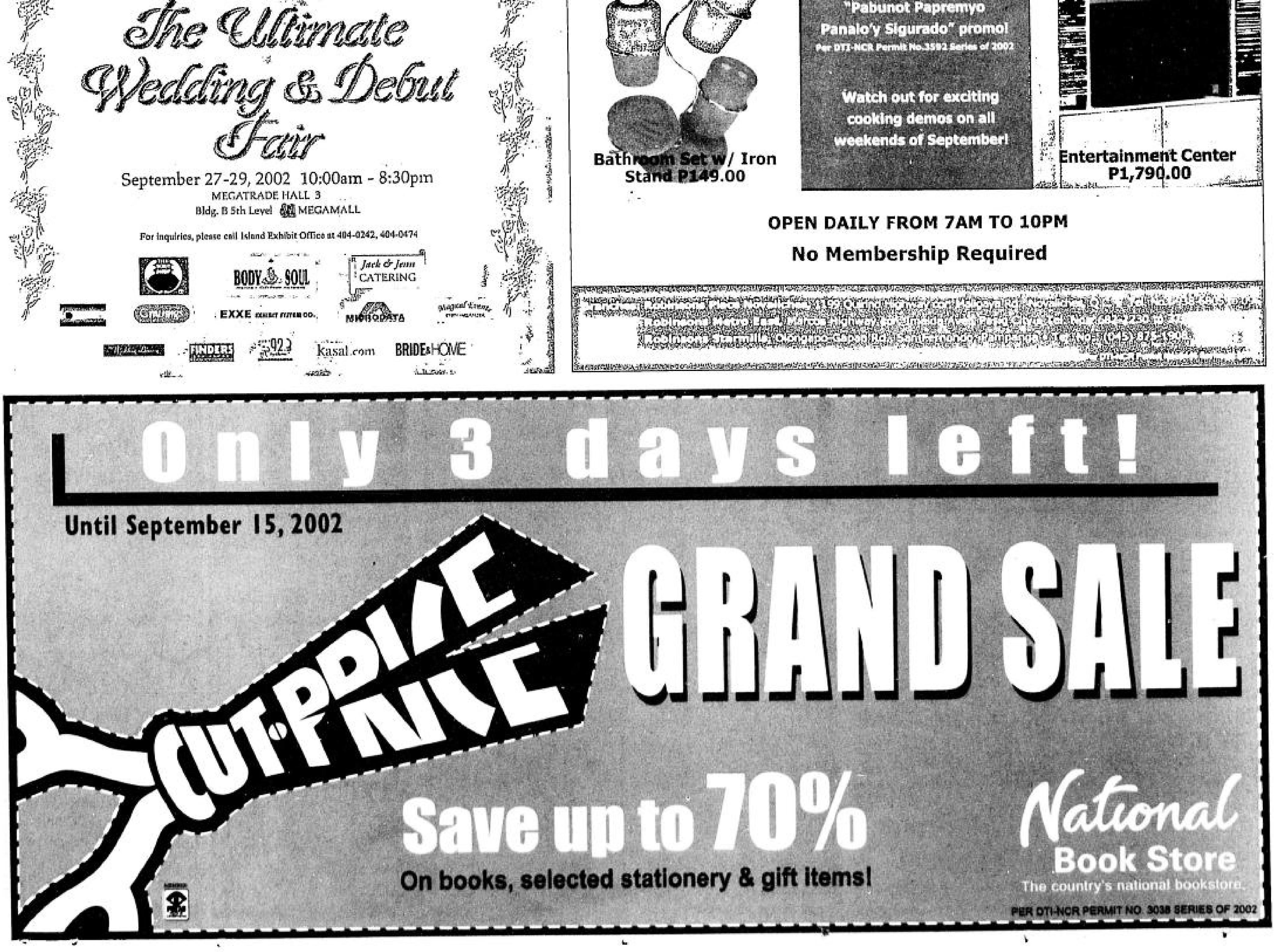

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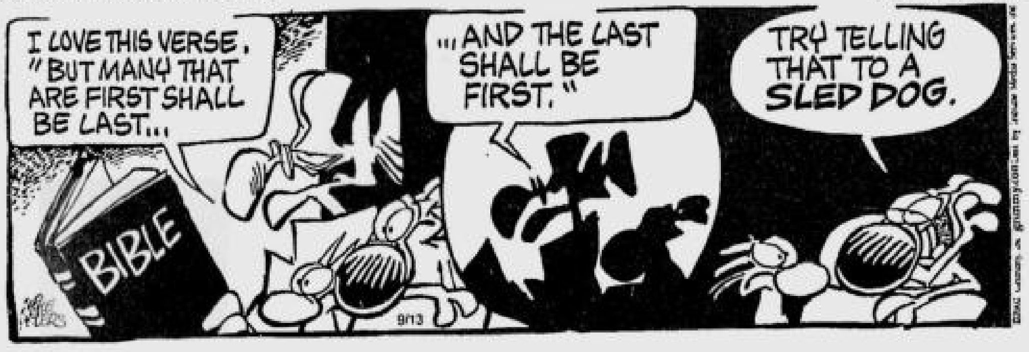
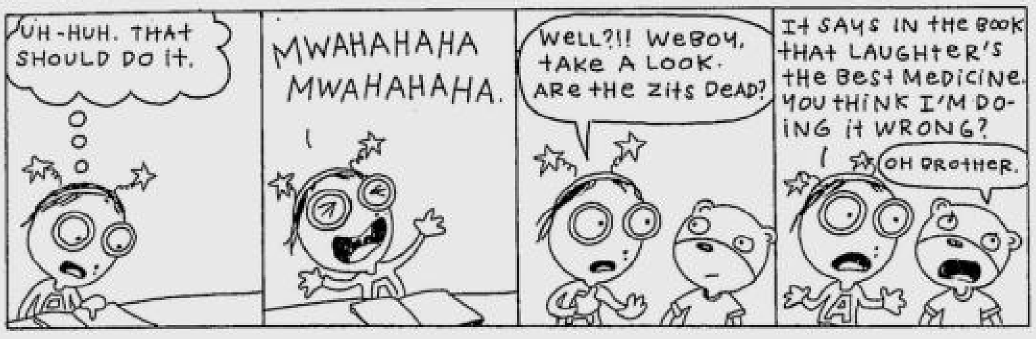
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I LOVE THIS VERSE. "BUT MANY THAT ARE FIRST SHALL BE LAST...
BIBLE
..."AND THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST."
TRY TELLING THAT TO A SLED DOG.
9/13

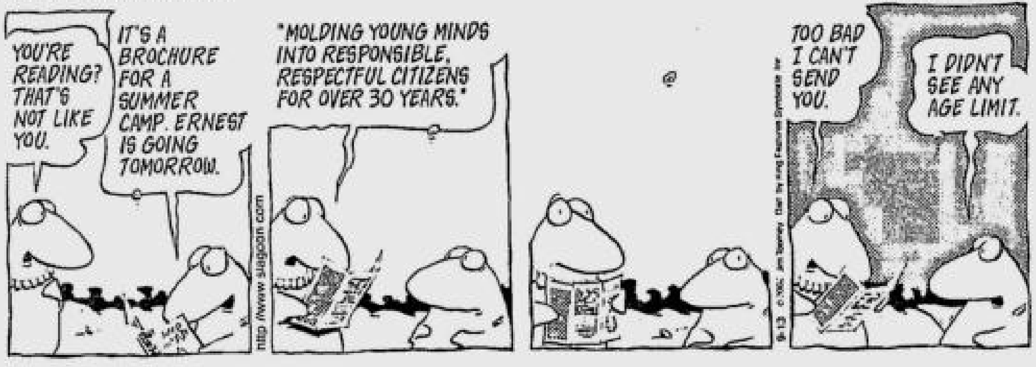
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


UH-HUH. THAT SHOULD DO IT.
MWAHAHAHA MWAHAHAHA.
WELL?!! WEBOY, TAKE A LOOK. ARE THE ZITS DEAD?
IT SAYS IN THE BOOK THAT LAUGHTER'S THE BEST MEDICINE. YOU THINK I'M DOING IT WRONG?
OH BROTHER.

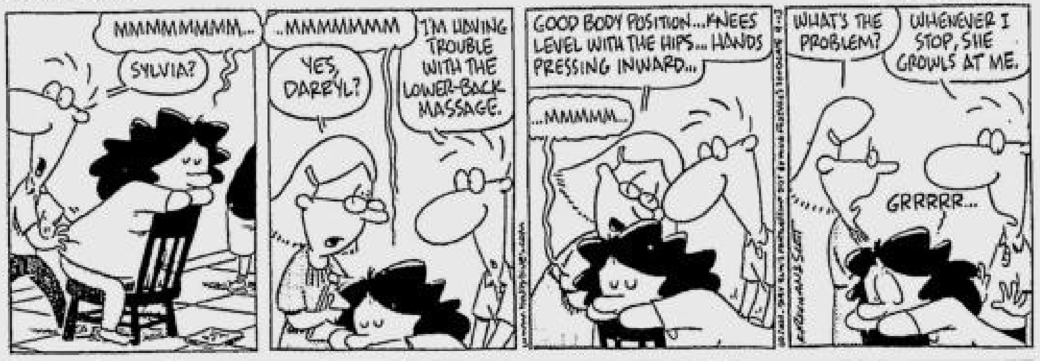
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


YOU'RE READING? THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
IT'S A BROCHURE FOR A SUMMER CAMP. ERNEST IS GOING TOMORROW.
"MOLDING YOUNG MINDS INTO RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL CITIZENS FOR OVER 30 YEARS."
TOO BAD I CAN'T SEND YOU.
I DIDN'T SEE ANY AGE LIMIT.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MMMMMMMM...
SYLVIA?
..MMMMMMM
YES, DARRYL?
I'M HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE LOWER-BACK MASSAGE.
GOOD BODY POSITION...KNEES LEVEL WITH THE HIPS... HANDS PRESSING INWARD...
...MMMMM...
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
WHENEVER I STOP, SHE GROWLS AT ME.
GRRRRR...

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fred Silverman, Mel Torme, Ben Savage, Jean Smart

Happy Birthday: You will have a tendency to take chances that could affect your health or lead to minor accidents. You will be energetic, carefree and welcoming of most challenges. Exaggeration and overdoing it will be your undoing. Set your priorities straight before you delve into too many projects. Your numbers are 2, 9, 20, 32, 38, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a trip or get involved in a spectacular event. Take the time to communicate how you feel and what your beliefs are. Get involved in projects that will enable you to share your thoughts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Moneymaking ventures will prove to be quite lucrative, especially if they pertain to real estate or something domestically beneficial. Extra cash will come your way through winnings .

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you let what other people say get to you, depression is likely to take over. Social activity will be entertaining and will become your best outlet.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Opportunities to do something a little different at work are likely to develop. Jump at the chance to travel or take a business-related course. Consider making some serious changes regarding your position.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get into social activities that will promote new romantic encounters or give you the opportunity to win the heart of the one you love all over again. Find ways to pamper yourself. Shopping will be in your best interest.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Expect your day to be fast-paced. Depressing events will result if you feel you've been taken for granted. Someone you are close to is likely to disappoint you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may want to look into some travel opportunities. A change of scenery or social activities that are a little unusual will brighten your day. If you are intent on changing your image or look, today is the day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your creative approach to your work will help you get ahead and impress the people who count. Get involved in activities that will bring you into contact with those who can grant you favors.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let things get to you. Don't let others drag you down or lead you in the wrong direction. Try to keep things in perspective.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Secret enemies are apparent. Don't share your thoughts or intentions with others. Problems with authority figures will lead to anxiety and worry. Concentrate on what you need to accomplish.

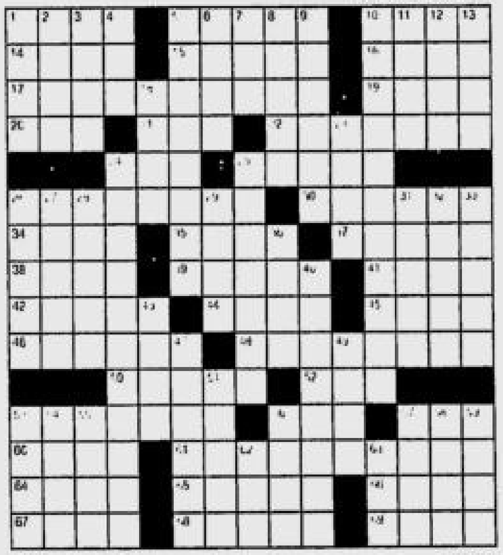
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your ability to come up with suitable solutions and your unique way of viewing the situations going on around you will ensure that you are in the spotlight.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Avoid confrontations today. If someone is pushing you for answers to questions that you really don't want to deal with, walk away. Remaining quiet will be your best alternative.

Birthday Baby: You will be carefree, engaging, a little bit accident-prone and always willing to take a chance. You will be drawn to a challenge and will strive for perfection.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Gregory E. Paul
Scottdale, PA

9/13/02

ACROSS
1 "Knowing Me, Knowing you" group
5 Yellowish white
10 Soap film
14 Highlands family
15 Make two
16 Celestial bear
17 Eggs order
19 "... __ the twain shall meet"
20 Tidal flow
21 Goose egg
22 Men on base
24 Old seafarer
25 Ore analysis
26 Ban
30 Help out
34 Bert the Cowardly Lion
35 Workplace watchdog grp.
37 Flooring worker
38 Winglike parts
39 Triangular sign
41 Sup
42 Ieper by another name
44 Location
45 Leisure
46 Sleuth
48 Off the beaten track
50 Steel girder type
52 Lenore's creator, initially?
53 Advice
56 Infamous Amin
57 Balderdash!
60 Westernmost Aleutian island
61 Eggs order
64 Let it stand!
65 Dubuque resident
66 Grounded birds
67 Drink heavily
68 Nest noise
69 Not as much

DOWN
1 Painful throb
2 Spill the beans
3 Fishhook feature
4 Plus
5 Goody-goody
6 Sora of Virginia
7 Mansion wing
8 Declares
9 One of the Gorgons
10 Eggs order
11 Native American tribe
12 Cable subscriber
13 Neighboring planet
18 __ B'rith
23 Old-time cartoonist
24 Eggs order
25 Madalyn Murray O'Hair's belief
26 Dramatic works
27 Bus-driver Kramden
28 "A Rage to Live" author
29 Sister of Osiris
31 Homer's epic
32 Reason
33 Trapped in branches
36 Der __ (Adenauer)
40 Dead person
43 Deli heroes
47 Think best
49 Reposed
51 Sanction
53 Players
54 Bologna eight
55 Miner's sch.
56 "Dies __"
57 "The __ of the Ancient Mariner"
58 Millstone
59 Hardy lass
62 Be obliged to
63 Part of GTE

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

A	G	A	P	E	■	S	A	S	H	A	■	S	R	A
M	E	S	A	S	■	P	U	T	U	P	■	T	O	T
P	L	A	Y	T	H	E	G	A	M	E	■	I	T	T
■	■	■	S	E	A	L	E	G	S	■	A	C	T	I
E	L	L	■	E	N	U	R	E	■	B	I	K	E	R
S	E	E	D	M	A	N	■	■	T	U	L	A	N	E
A	N	T	E	S	■	K	L	I	S	T	E	R	■	■
I	D	O	L	■	B	E	R	N	E	■	R	O	P	E
■	■	F	E	V	E	R	E	D	■	P	O	U	L	T
Z	A	F	T	I	G	■	■	O	C	O	N	N	O	R
O	L	S	E	N	■	S	A	N	E	R	■	D	Y	E
O	U	T	S	■	T	A	L	E	N	T	S	■	■	■
M	M	E	■	P	U	L	L	S	T	R	I	N	G	S
E	N	A	■	A	S	S	A	I	■	A	R	I	E	S
D	A	M	■	S	H	A	N	A	■	Y	E	A	T	S

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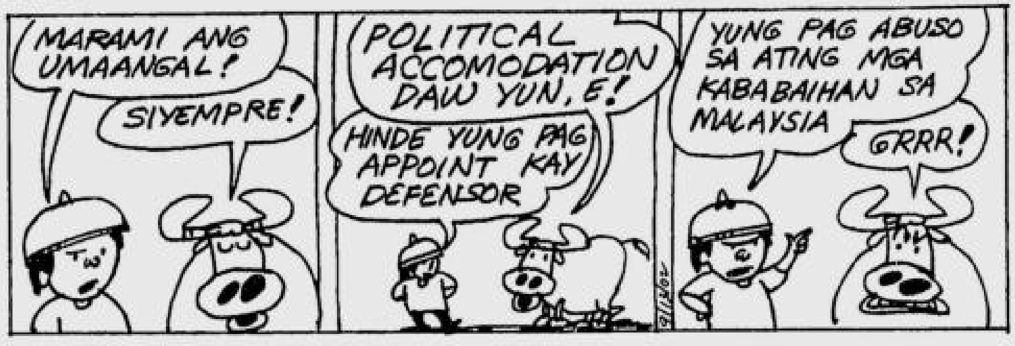
9/13/02

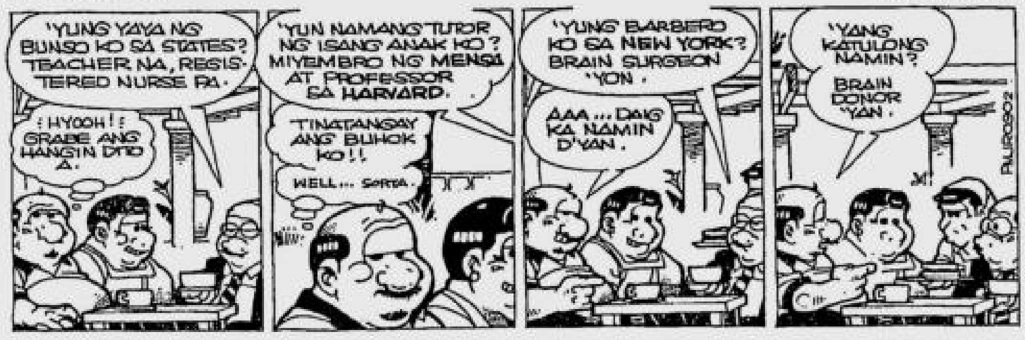
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MARAMI ANG UMAANGAL!
SIYEMPRE!
POLITICAL ACCOMODATION DAW YUN, E!
HINDE YUNG PAG APPOINT KAY DEFENSOR
YUNG PAG ABUSO SA ATING MGA KABABAIHAN SA MALAYSIA
GRRR!
9/13/02

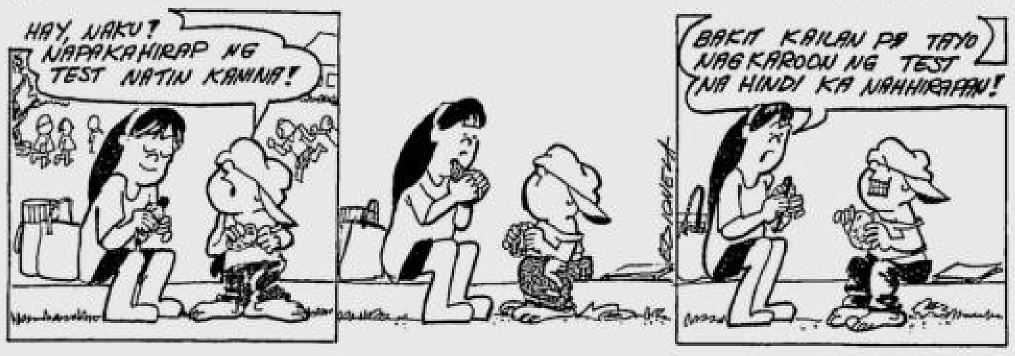
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


'YUNG YAYA NG BUNSO KO SA STATES? TEACHER NA, REGISTERED NURSE PA.
¡HYOOH!¡ GRABE ANG HANGIN DITO A.
'YUN NAMANG TUTOR NG ISANG ANAK KO? MIYEMBRO NG MENSA AT PROFESSOR SA HARVARD.
TINATANGAY ANG BUHOK KO!!
WELL... SORTA.
'YUNG BARBERO KO SA NEW YORK? BRAIN SURGEON 'YON.
AAA... DAIG KA NAMIN D'YAN.
'YANG KATULONG NAMIN?
BRAIN DONOR 'YAN.
PILURO902

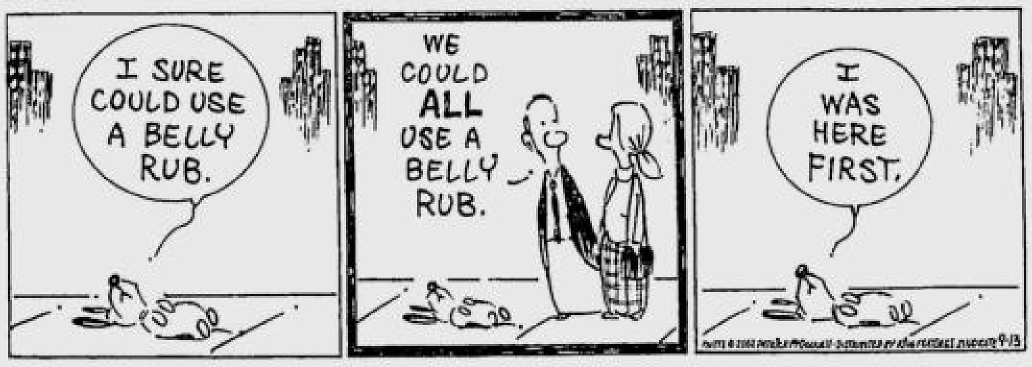
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


HAY, NAKU! NAPAKAHIRAP NG TEST NATIN KANINA!
BAKIT KAILAN PA TAYO NAGKAROON NG TEST NA HINDI KA NAHIHIRAPAN!

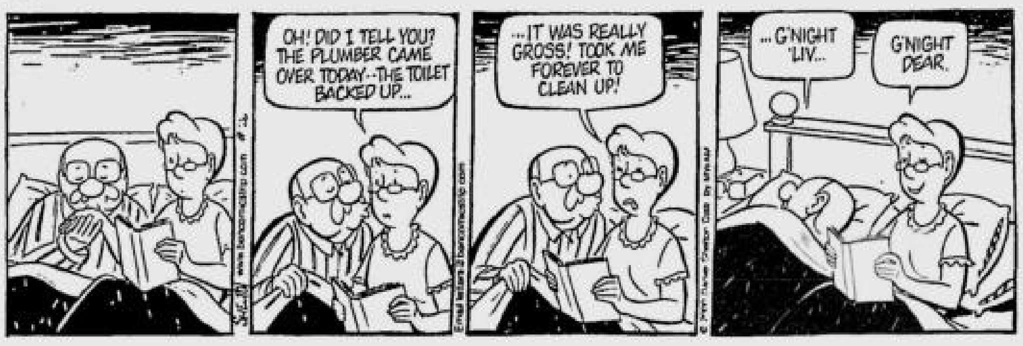
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I SURE COULD USE A BELLY RUB.
WE COULD ALL USE A BELLY RUB.
I WAS HERE FIRST.
9-13

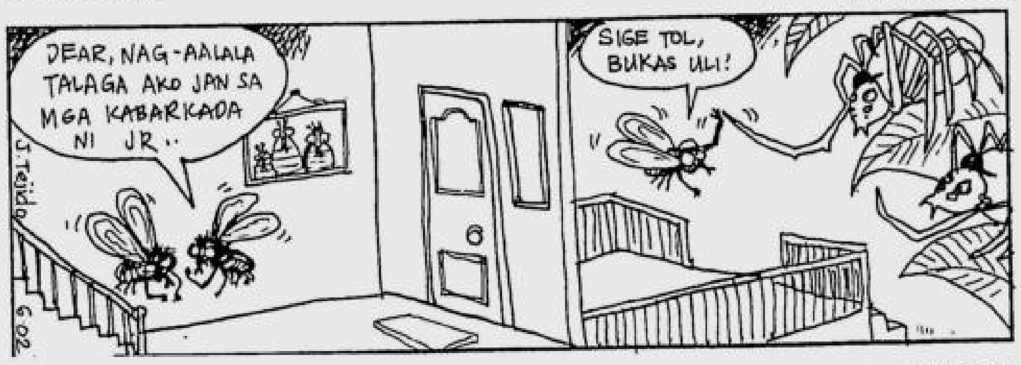
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OH! DID I TELL YOU? THE PLUMBER CAME OVER TODAY--THE TOILET BACKED UP...
...IT WAS REALLY GROSS! TOOK ME FOREVER TO CLEAN UP!
...G'NIGHT 'LIV...
G'NIGHT DEAR.

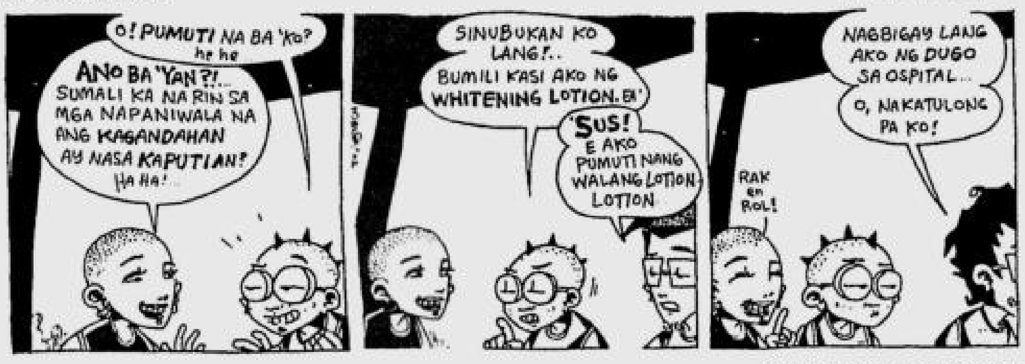
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DEAR, NAG-AALALA TALAGA AKO JAN SA MGA KABARKADA NI JR..
SIGE TOL, BUKAS ULI!
J.Tejido
6 02

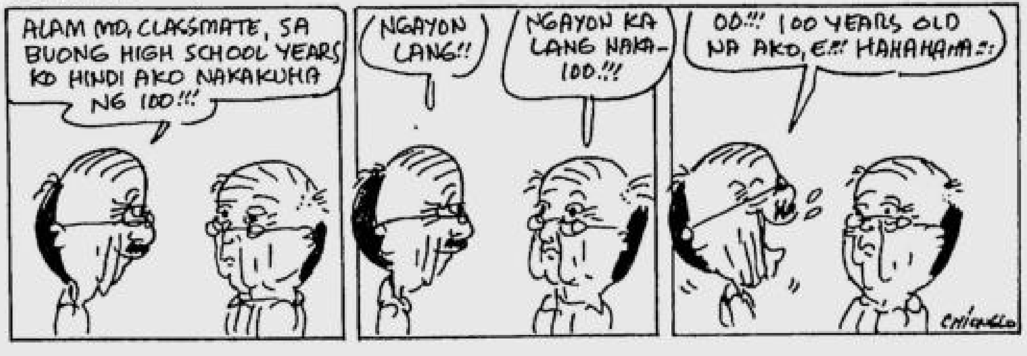
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O! PUMUTI NA BA 'KO? he he
ANO BA 'YAN?!.. SUMALI KA NA RIN SA MGA NAPANIWALA NA ANG KAGANDAHAN AY NASA KAPUTIAN? HA HA!
SINUBUKAN KO LANG!.. BUMILI KASI AKO NG WHITENING LOTION. E!
'SUS! E AKO PUMUTI NANG WALANG LOTION LOTION
RAK en ROL!
NAGBIGAY LANG AKO NG DUGO SA OSPITAL...
O, NAKATULONG PA KO!

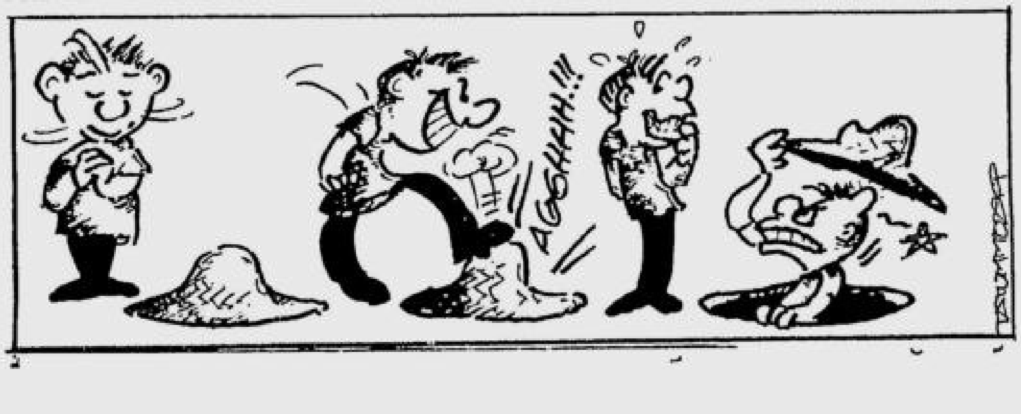
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO, CLASSMATE, SA BUONG HIGH SCHOOL YEARS KO HINDI AKO NAKAKUHA NG 100!!!
NGAYON LANG!!
NGAYON KA LANG NAKA-100!!!
OO!!! 100 YEARS OLD NA AKO, E!!! HAHAHAHA!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Power of three

From page D5

and trained them for catwalk stardom. "Raya shines on the catwalk and is able to make the dress float," said fashion director Jackie Aquino.

"I love how Rissa, being a true fashionista, is always well dressed—from rehearsals till after-show cocktails. A lot of times what she's wearing is even nicer than what she wore for the show," said director Robby Carmona, who also frequently hires Robby to model, as well as to deejay for shows and events.

Creative upbringing

Credit for the trio's creativity goes to their upbringing. As young kids, they would always have notebooks on all of their travels. Mom Millet, who is Star's Life editor, and dad Robert, a businessman, would ask them to doodle and write their thoughts on the notebooks; whoever came up with the best book would win bonus shopping money. The "work hard, think hard to be able to play hard" philosophy coupled with travels around the globe and extensive exposure to arts, fashion and culture obviously refined their style.

"When we were kids, Rob and I were so close that we listened to the same kind of music—Metallica, Guns N' Roses and the like—we even wore the same clothes! Baggy jeans, big RL shirts and eight-hole Doc Martens—hip-hop to the max! Ironically, it was during this phase of mine that my husband Marzo fell for me," said Rissa, who is a mother of one.

Raya wanted to be a teacher and a nun when she was younger. Ever a generous soul, she celebrated her last birthday not in some bar or club but in Tondo, where she fed a barangay of street kids, hosted parlor games and gave away prizes.

Sibling revelry

Rissa's style pits the Old World with the New World—diva-esque in the tradition of Tina Maristela-Ocampo. Robby is more on the relaxed, sporty and clean macho look, with sneakers mixed with dress shirts and jackets. Raya is more classic with a funky twist, like mixing couture or vintage finds with jeans and quirky accessories. The sisters are in Preview magazine's latest best-dressed list.

Any fashion faux pas? "I can't think of any because I've never really cared about what people think of what I wear," said Robby. Spoken like a true-blue rocker.

All through this Lifestyle shoot, the 3Ms were professional. Right after Shu Uemura's Xing Zulueta applied their makeup, they were ready to go. And despite the intense heat (the new Naia 3 airport didn't have air-conditioners yet), they were such troopers that they would wipe their own perspiration in-between takes, and managed to look cool. No complaints, no bratty diva attitude whatsoever.

Clearly, besides great genes, such professionalism is a reason they often grace the fashion pages in town that can give Vanity Fair a run for its money.

Indeed, for these siblings, the future looks good.

—

TWIN POWER. Robby in Bench Overhauled and Rissa in Benetton raver shirt and Rajo Laurel denim skirt inside the Naia 3's main arrival hall

KIDS TAKE ON ROMANTIC FASHION
The look is definitely girly—ruffles, appliqués and floral embroidery—in the prettiest white tops. Laced skirts, tasseled capri pants, and denim pants and jackets, on the other hand, add loads of attitude. The romantic collection is available at the Children's Wear Department of all SM stores.

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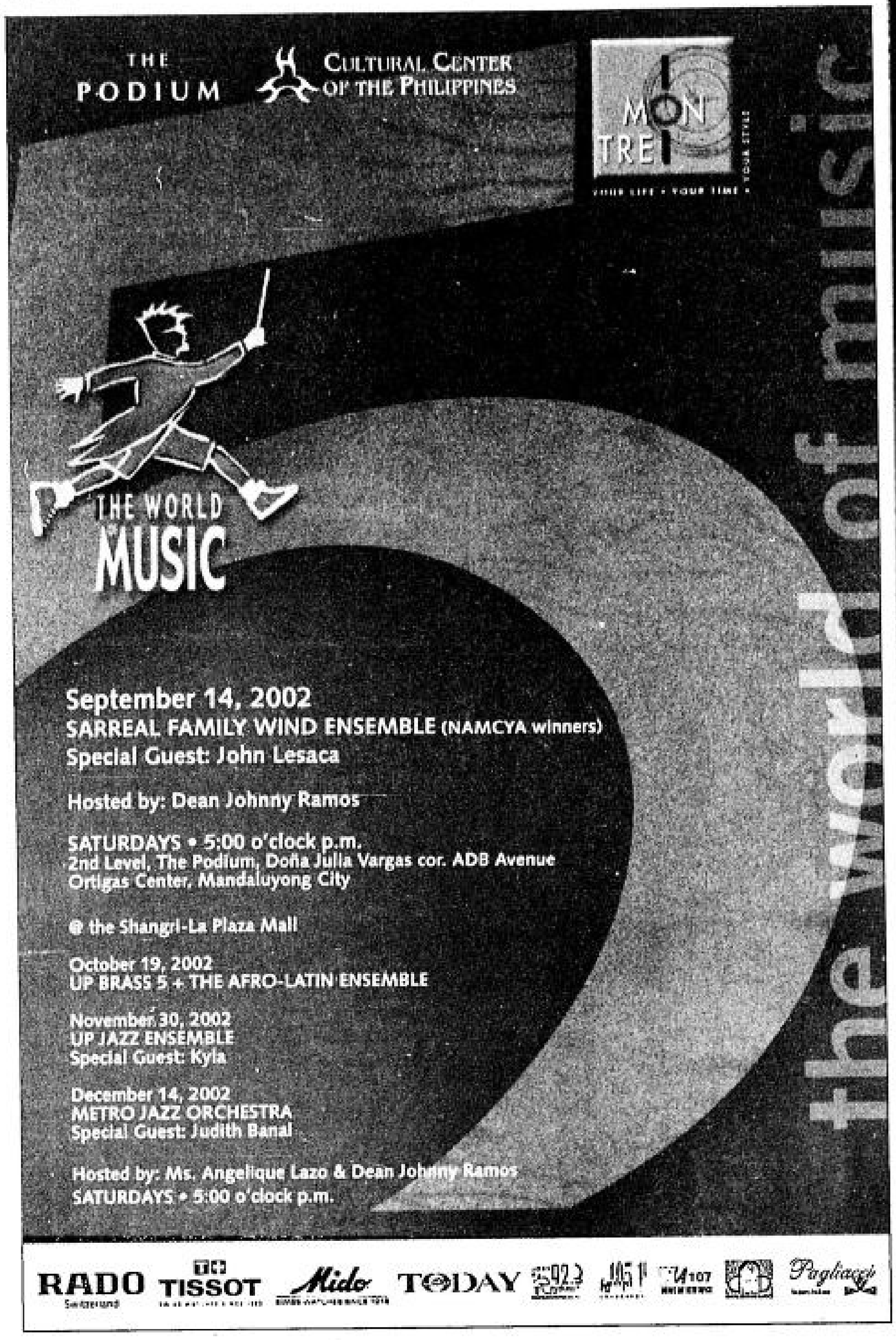
Designers pay tribute to Rudy Fuentes

IN "ANYO… AÑO… 2003," Quezon City designers Eddie Baddeo, Eric Pineda, Fanny Serrano, Toby Albrando, Rollie Graza and Frederick Alba, the High Hope Foundation Inc. and its chair Wilma A. Sarino will pay tribute to Rudy Fuentes' 40th year in the fashion scene. The presentation will be held at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel on Nov. 13. The theme of the show is "Colors."

Fuentes will present 40-50 gowns while the other designers will feature 10-12 creations. The show will be divided into "Peasant Fantasy," "Haute Couture" and "Retrospective," which will feature gowns done by Fuentes in his early years, especially those worn by his friend Chona Kasten.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November 30, 2002
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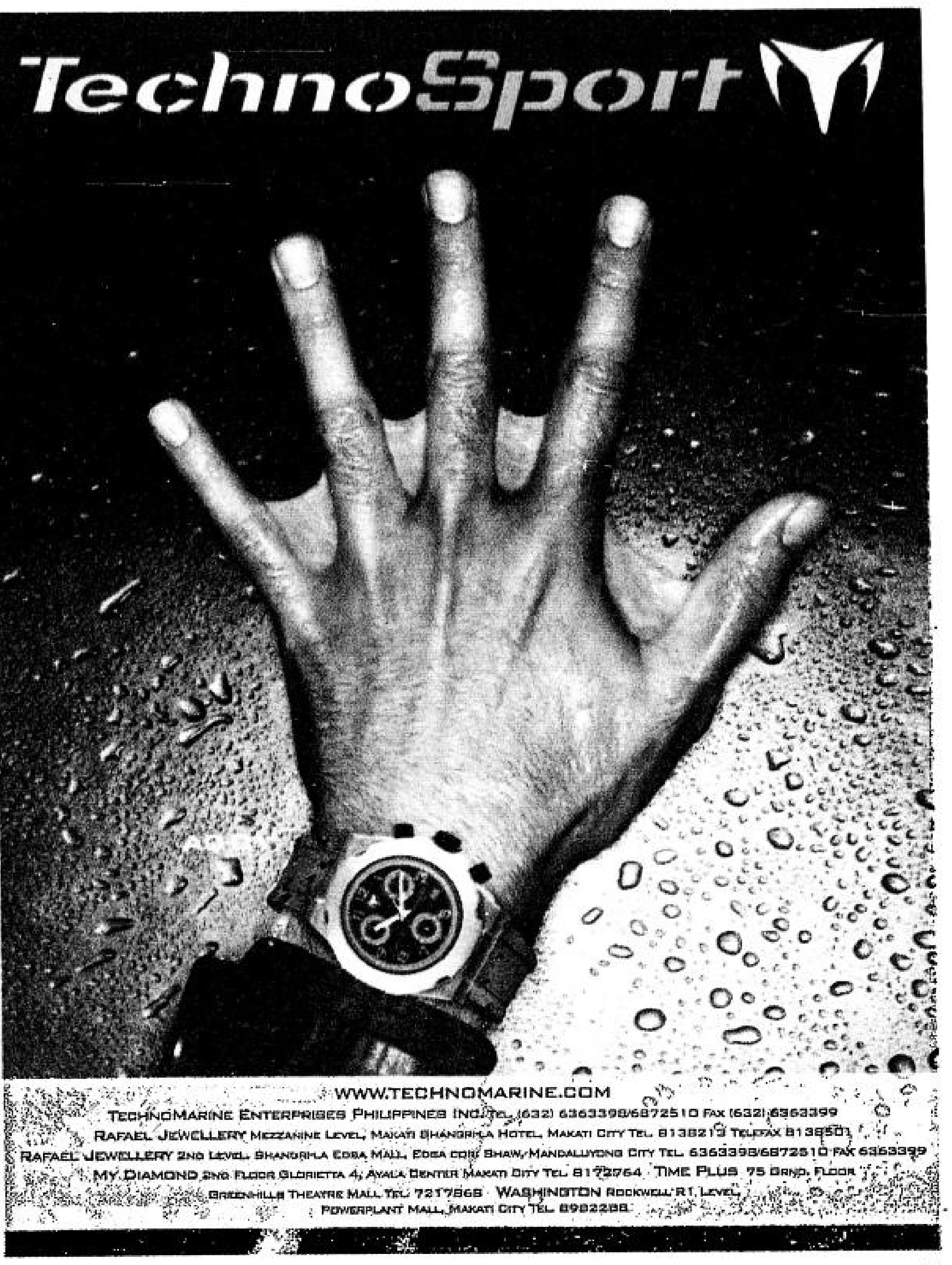
Special Guest: Kyla

December 14, 2002
METRO JAZZ ORCHESTRA
Special Guest: Judith Banal

Hosted by: Ms. Angelique Lazo & Dean Johnny Ramos
SATURDAYS • 5:00 o'clock p.m.

RADO Switzerland TISSOT Mido TODAY Pagliacci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LIFESTYLE

Trend spotting
stephB.

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

The day I accidentally ended up with a cosmetic surgeon

All I was looking forward to was the prick-and-peel stuff

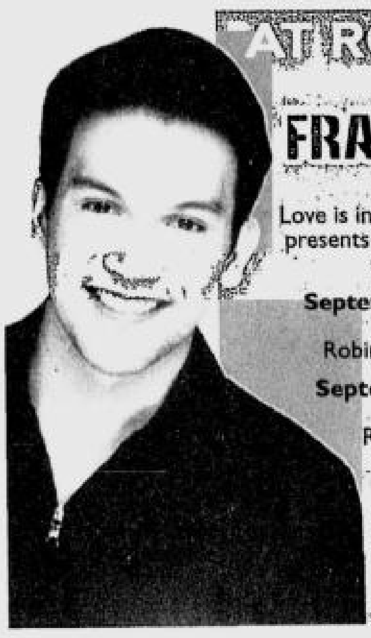
LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

"SO why do you need a plastic surgeon? What do you want done?" this nice doctor asked me with a near-beatific smile as I sat before him.

Huh? Cosmetic/plastic surgery? It's the planets I want reconfigured, not my face. The most I've done to interfere with God's design on my body is via Tina Juan's gym, and her

THE DAY/ p.E2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Real People. True Stories.

"My job and family keep me 'young on the inside' – on the outside, it's definitely Imedeen! It's not just for your face -- over-all conditioning talaga!"

Zina Rosales,
events planner, mother of two teenagers,
'proud to be vain'

How can you best enjoy a life packed with blessings? For Zina Rosales, it's by staying vibrant and young in spirit – with skin to match. That's where Imedeen comes in. "Imedeen enhances my skin all over, not just on my face... I started to see aging signs on my neck, but with Imedeen it's now supple and even-toned." Unlike creams and lotions, Imedeen works from inside to help strengthen the inner layers of the skin where aging starts. That's why Zina, a self-described 'beauty cynic', looks young and feels confident. As she puts it, "No one notices the age difference when I'm with my young friends!" Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

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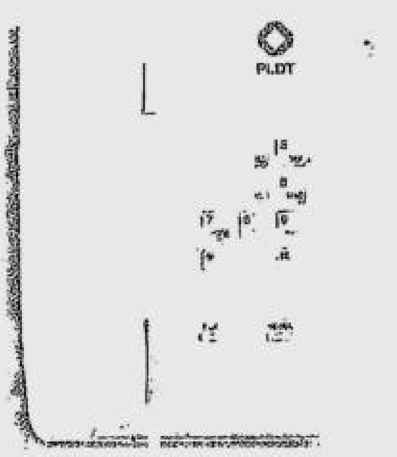

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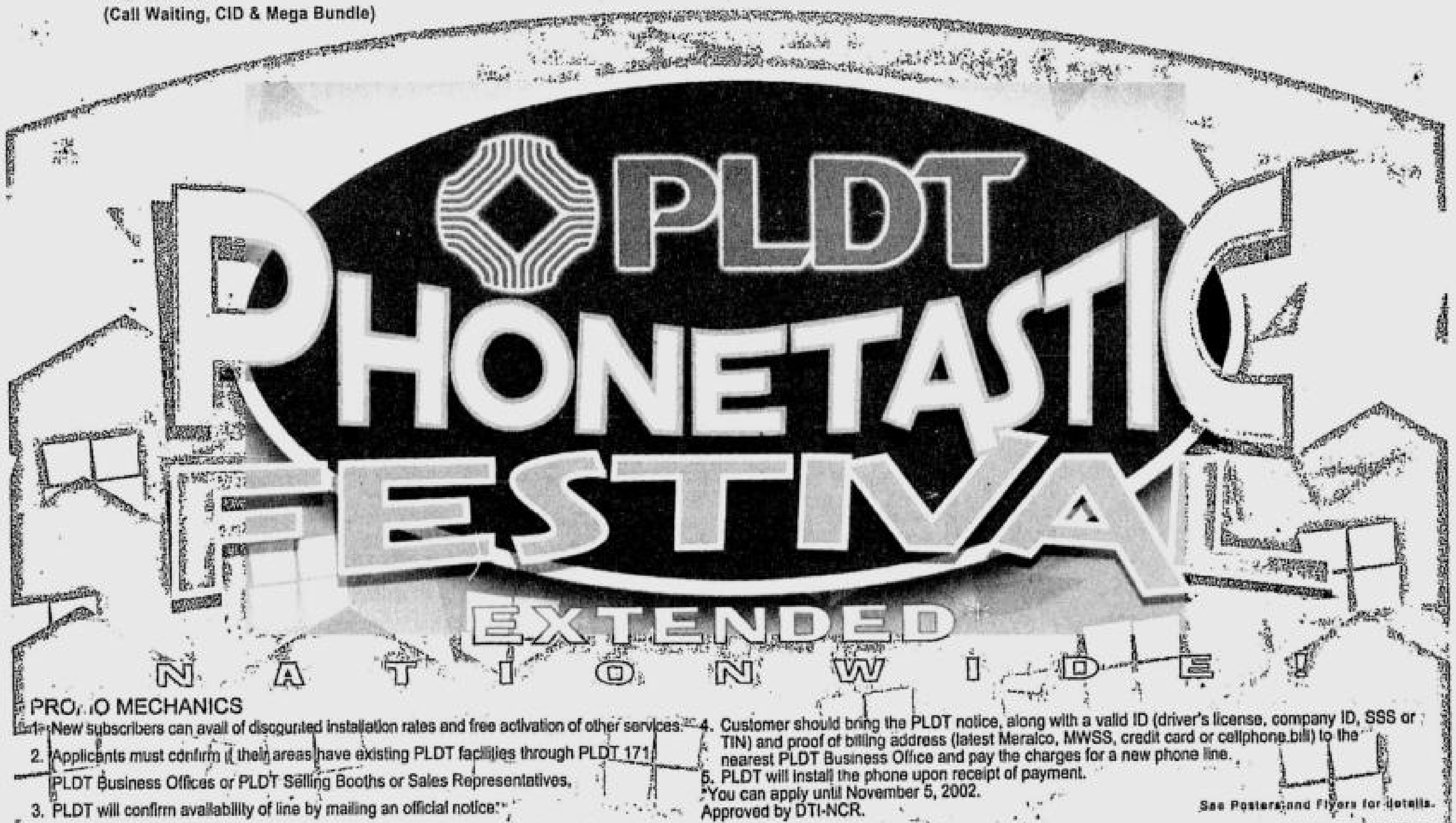

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4 new products turn back the clock

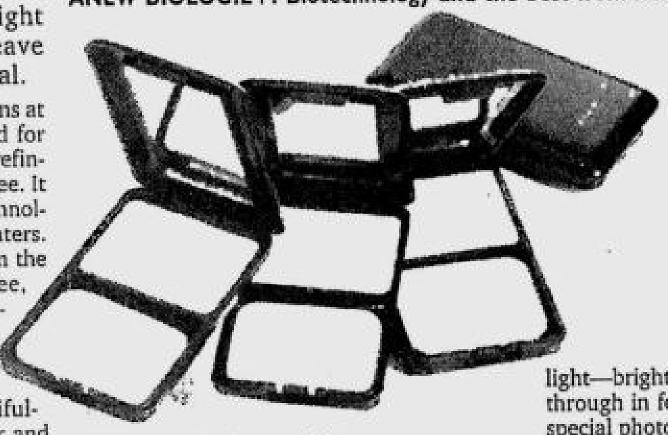
By Cathy Babao Guballa

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

ANEW BIOLOGIE+. Biotechnology and the best from nature

AVON, the company for women, has just released four breakthrough products that address the needs of a woman's skin. Trusted by generations of women, Avon revolutionized skin care back in 1992 with the introduction of alpha-hydroxy acids. Today, it introduces a moisturizer that promises to turn back the clock, a cream that revives and purifies the skin, a foundation that adjusts to light and lipsticks that moisturize and leave the lips feeling smooth and sensual.

Aging, horror of horrors, they say, begins at 20. Anew Biologie+, a product designed for women 20 and above is a revolutionary refining lotion with hydroxy acid, and is oil free. It combines the advanced benefits of bio-technology with nature's most effective age fighters. This product's key ingredients come from the seed of the neem, a popular Indian tree, which work with the body's own mechanisms to help protect against damaging stress factors; the pomegranate, an anti-oxidant used for daily skin protection; danshen, to help maintain firm, beautiful-looking skin; grapeseed, a skin hydrator and strengthener; and iris florentina root, to help minimize the appearance of lines and wrinkles.


GREAT looks day or night

Avon launches breakthrough products that promise to slow aging process

Anew Biologie+ also has SPF 15 for excellent environmental defense. Over 90 percent of users, surveyed after four weeks of use, reported that their skin was clearer and had improved in texture. SPF 15 provided an added benefit and 75 percent of those tested registered an improvement in overall photo damage after two weeks.

Anew O2 is the mega moisturizer that is a hydrating "lighter than air" gel-cream. It is soft, weightless and immediately absorbed. The unique facial treatment incorporates the Energie-Cell System designed to increase oxygen delivery to skin cells by enhancing cellular metabolism and oxygen utilization. The moisturizer also has SPF 15 UVA/UVB broad-spectrum protection increasing the delivery of pure, life-giving oxygen to revive, purify and invigorate the skin. Oxygen is essential to healthy skin as it energizes the cells that keep a person looking young. Reduced levels of nutrients and oxygen make the body lose its ability to fight the aging process and the natural vitality of the skin diminishes.

MEGA moisturizer

Anti-aging

Anew O2's Energie-Cell System contains effective ingredients that fight off the visible signs of aging—xymenic acid helps deliver increased oxygen to cells and assists in eliminating impurities; crape myrtle extract is a naturally derived ingredient that increases oxygen utilization of the cells; carnitine provides energy to the cells and helps the cells function more efficiently, and corn kernel extract increases the oxygen consumption of cells. Thus, Anew O2 helps skin breathe easier and increases oxygen delivery to the skin cells. It helps the skin perform its normal functions and repair itself after stress and damage.

Avon has also launched Avon Color Auto Focus Foundation with SPF 15. The foundation guarantees great looks whether outdoors or indoors, day or night. The revolutionary makeup stays natural-looking and radiant in any light—bright sunshine or candlelight. A breakthrough in foundation technology, it features special photomatic pigments that adjust automatically depending on the level of light intensity. The foundation has an easy-to-apply cream-to-powder formula that ensure smooth and even coverage so you can say goodbye to an uneven, cake-y look. It also has a Dual Smart System that works two ways—balance the skin texture by adding moisture to where skin is dry and absorb excess oil. Of course, it also has SPF 15 to protect the skin from the sun's damaging effects.

color
NUTRALUS
LIPSTICK with SPF12
LUSCIOUS lips with Nutralush

Avon's fourth product breakthrough fights the threat of aging lips. Color Nutralush Lipstick with SPF 12 contains exclusive collagen-enriched "super plump complex" to leave lips looking fuller. It diminishes the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles. Lips get moisturized nearly 200 percent two hours after application. The product also contains Vitamins A, C and E, beta carotene and glycerin, which protect, moisturize and condition lips. SPF 12 protects the lips from environmental damage. The lipstick is available in seven shades that will appeal to Filipino women of every shade. *Mestizas*, *chinitas* and *morenas* will easily find a color suitable to their skin tone.

From the basics of skin care to makeup essentials, "Avon's got you all covered," as Lea Salonga would say. Pass the lipstick, please.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

Cream of the crop

By Allison W. Lopez

A day cream with mourera leaves as its key botanical ingredient promises to shield the skin from the effects of changing temperatures, pollution and stress

IT thrives in the rapid moving waters of South America, hanging on to dear life as it resists the river's violent currents. Almost completely submerged during the wet season, this plant also adapts well in dry conditions. The mourera fluviatilis, which is found only in French Guyana, possesses an exceptional resistance to its environmental conditions.

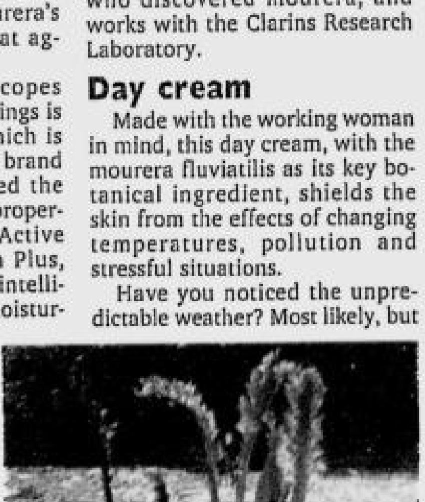
Like the mourera, we are subjected to everyday torments of stress, pollution and weather changes—only, we are in the urban jungle, and we don't have the mourera's innate ability to combat aggressions.

How the mourera copes with its harsh surroundings is certainly enviable. Which is why Clarins, a leading brand in skin care, integrated the mourera's exceptional properties in its new Multi-Active Day Cream Protection Plus, touted as a complete, intelligent and "ecological" moisturizer that protects the skin against all daytime aggressions.

"Our analyses have revealed that the mourera's leaves are very rich in sugar and mineral salts, which have interesting hydro-regulating properties, qualities we wanted women to benefit from by incorporating it into the new Multi-Active Day Cream," says botanist Bruno Bordenave, who discovered mourera, and works with the Clarins Research Laboratory.

Day cream

Made with the working woman in mind, this day cream, with the mourera fluviatilis as its key botanical ingredient, shields the skin from the effects of changing temperatures, pollution and stressful situations.


SURVIVOR. Clarins' key ingredient, the mourera fluviatilis, adapts well to its harsh environment.

Have you noticed the unpredictable weather? Most likely, but what you probably haven't noticed is what it does to your skin. Through the day cream's hydro-thermo-regulating ability, just the right level of moisture is maintained regardless of climactic conditions, so the skin is protected against temperature changes.

"This new day cream was especially developed and improved for Asians, who have to deal with a more tropical environment compared to Europeans," says Peggy Cheng, Clarins' regional training manager for Asia-Pacific.

Clarins day cream comes in two forms—the ultra-light gel-cream, and the thicker, but still lightweight cream.

"Some day creams and moisturizers become too sticky when it gets hot and humid. But Clarins day cream is easily absorbed, whether you use the cream-gel form, or the lightweight cream form," she adds.

Called Multi-Active for the numerous protections it provides, this day cream shields the skin from pollution and light-induced free radicals through its anti-pollution complex and photo-regulating quality.

"If you used to shy away from your smoker-boyfriend and say, 'Don't blow smoke in my face,' now you can bravely face him when you have Clarins day cream protection," Cheng quips. (Cigarette smoke, however, has been found to be dangerous to more parts of the body than just the skin.)

CLARINS
Multi-Active Jour

To help prevent fine lines and signs of fatigue, its tensio-regulating ability optimizes the toning effect of facial movements, or as Clarins defines it, line prevention at its best. Not only does this day cream perform multiple tasks; it also boasts of working overtime.

"Clarins day cream works 10-15 hours, protecting your skin all throughout the day. It has longer protection than other day creams, which usually work from 8-10 hours only," Cheng says. Though it doesn't have SPF, Cheng adds that their product's protective ability is equal to SPF 8.

Night cream

As a complement, Clarins also introduced the Multi-Active Night Cream, which comes only in cream-gel form.

"We mustn't underscore the importance of a night cream. If the day cream is for protection, the night cream is for the skin's replenishment," Cheng says.

Though the creams are recommended for use to 25-40-year-olds, Cheng adds that it is not limited to this age bracket.

"It's best if you start young, even before those lines appear. You can see there are women in their 40s or 50s who do not look their age because they took good care of their skin," she explains.

Clarins Multi-Active Day Cream and Night Cream are available exclusively at all Rustan's outlets

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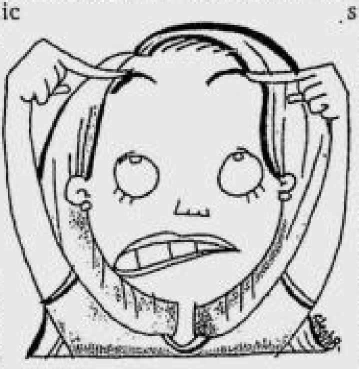
The day I accidentally . . .

From page E1

trainer's doing just fine with my abs, arms and thighs. I may be turning a year older this month, but a face-lift is not yet in my life's strategy, much less in my annual budget. Besides, eons ago, my colleague Millet and I had this unwritten agreement that if ever we decided on an eye job or a face-lift in the distant future, we'd first tip each other off for a comparative shopping of surgeons.

Of course, I didn't say all of the above. They were merely my stream of consciousness in this tongue-tied moment.

"Uh," I said, pointing to my face. Wrong gesture. It was then that I remembered the sign outside his clinic: Cosmetic and reconstructive surgery—breast augmentation, liposuction, eye-lift. "My skin," I finally got it right, still pointing to my face. Skin of my face, which is definitely far from my boobs, and even farther away from my tummy ("bill blass").



"Let me take a look at your skin," he said, walking towards me with an instrument he then beamed on my cheeks and eyelids.

He kinda lifted my eyebrows and said, "You be careful with the [eyebrow] tattoo. Some have it done wrong and when they finally get a face-lift, the tattoo line is not aligned with the brow. So when you're 80, it's pulled higher and higher."

Now, that's not hard to imagine (having four eyebrows, like the movable lines of C-5 I know only too well). But then when and if I get to be 80, it's a priest I'd be seeing regularly, not a cosmetic/plastic surgeon.

Miscommunication

Again, I didn't say the above. Instead, I said, "Doc, you a derma? I just want some cleaning, pricking, peeling." We both laughed, realizing the earlier miscommunication. I told him I learned about him from Herminia Layug, Budji's mom, and other friends with miraculously clear skin.

It was a year ago, three months before 9/11. Budji, his mom, Eli Pinto and I, along with Citem's Movement 8, were in New York for the international design fair. We stayed at the chic Hudson Hotel (the famous collaboration of Ian Schrager, the exponent of designer hotels, and Philippe Starck, the design icon) where I shared a room with Ms Layug, a beautiful and amazing woman. At night and in the morning, I'd subtly watch her spread out the towel on the dresser and, before she put on her light makeup, she'd arrange on it her cosmetics and hairbrush (a neat, demure habit lost in my generation). I'd marvel at her complexion and was impressed even more that she had no elaborate skin ritual. She told me of the Obagi treatment she had with a Doctor Corres many years ago.

I heard this name again from others so I kept it in mind. Now, a year later, I finally made the appointment, presuming he was a dermatologist. I was too busy to inquire (the word of mouth was enough) and thus the surprise when I finally read the signs in his clinic.

I wasn't that way off the mark, it turned out. Dr. Jesse Corres is a veteran cosmetic and reconstructive surgeon, one of whose specializations is cosmetic dermatology. He practiced for 30 years in Chicago, where he is affiliated with the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons. His card says diplomate, American Board of Plastic Surgery. His surgery practice also involves cancer patients. In 1997, he introduced the well-known Obagi treatment in the Philippines and from here, to Southeast Asia. He still practices half of the year in Chicago and the remaining half, here.

Skin history

"So what don't you want about your skin?" he asked me, starting what would be a rather extensive interview about my skin, habits, genetic history (not your usual session with a prick-and-peel-that's-it dermatologist. It's the pores and pimple scars on my T-zone, I told him, and added, I don't like a treatment that bars me away from the tennis court. (Stress and tennis are two addictions I'm not prepared to give up.) He told me what is wrong with my skin (no glow, coarse in some areas, the quality is generally inferior). Obviously, he said, I wasn't diligent in skin care even if I don't have pimples. Right. But I use moisturizer, exfoliant scrub, I told him. Scrubbing, he said, makes it worse.

At that point, I knew I had a lot of questions for this no-nonsense doctor, from which many women and men could benefit. (He didn't know this would turn into an interview, or that I'd write it up, so he was somewhat candid about the prevailing dermatology services.) Skin care technology, like hair technology, has never heated up as it does now, with the consumers being barraged by an arsenal of products and treatments that range from laser, light, mechanical to natural, organic procedures, and the ultra-potent marketing campaigns to push them. There are now so many products and approaches to skin care, not to mention terminologies and ingredients, that it's so bewildering. It doesn't help that you have many facial massage centers and spas to choose from, on top of the derm clinics.

It is ironic that the greater the selections, the more myths and misconceptions there are to debunk, the more confused, if not ill-informed, the consumer becomes.

Now here's this doctor telling me that facials, the pricking and peeling are not necessarily good for your skin.

At the onset, it was obvious that he would not put me through the pricking, scrubbing, laser procedure. He doesn't do that stuff, nor does he believe in it.

He said that facials and pricking can do more harm than good. Pricking or sucking removes the blackheads, whiteheads and other impurities, which come back anyway in no time. So what ensues is an endless pricking cycle, which is good money for the "dermas" but leaves your skin scarred, if not traumatized.

Dated

This kind of "treatment," he said, is 30 years old—dated. Pricking, sucking, rubbing and the use of such stuff as granules stimulate the oil glands. It's good if the oil generated moisturizes the skin surface, but what happens is that it clogs the pores and leads to infection (the pimples).

If you are in your 30s or 40s, the skin collagen goes down, the skin elasticity wanes, so the more you rub the skin, the greater the tension between the skin and the underlying muscles.

In short, the skin, he said, must be handled gently, not manipulated. He prefers facial exercises to facial massage, to rejuvenate the muscles and prevent sagging and wrinkling. Also, you don't wipe your face dry, you pat and block-dry it instead. (Many of us know that, but in our rush, we resort to sweeping strokes when we clean/wash the face.) One must also be cautious with cauterizing. The less invasive one is on the skin, the better.

So what will he do to mine, I asked. First, he said, the regimen must be corrective (smoothen out the skin, even out the tone, remedy the open pores and restore the circulation so the skin will not be coarse or sallow). He'll change the skin texture and quality.

This stage will take three to four months. After this, he'll slow down the regimen, which I take to mean as weakening the cream dosage.

He gave me a cream lineup to apply. This will declog the pores, stimulate and restore my collagen and skin elasticity, revive circulation, and blending out my skin tone.

What I paid for the hour-long consultation and the cream package was reasonable, I believe, by today's derma rates. I appreciate a professional who educates his patient or the consumer. Most of all, I like a no-fuss treatment.

Faced with a supermarket of skin-care formula, like many consumers, I like to keep things simple and basic. Now, let's see if this thing works.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

Finding the right shoes for your workout exercises

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

SEPTEMBER is here again. This means formal parties are back and the holidays are just around the corner. This is the best time to start a serious exercise regimen to knock off those pounds so we have some "allowance" for the weight we are going to gain by January. If you're 15 pounds overweight now, you are sure to add at least 10 more after all those Christmas, New Year and wedding parties. If you start in October or November, you will hardly make a dent because it takes six to eight weeks to see visible results.

But it is not for me to tell you what workout you should do. It is up to you to find the exercise you can stick with. What I can tell you is to find the right shoes for your workout of choice. Tip: It's time to buy new shoes if the ones you have are over a year old (for those who work out regularly, thrice a week or more) or a year and a half to two for spurt exercisers (twice a week or once a month).

I road-tested two pairs of sneakers—one men's shoes for running and one cross-trainer for women. According to a survey, men found running to be the most practical and effective exercise because most of them don't like paying for and waiting in line in the gym. I chose a cross-trainer for myself because I get bored with one type of exercise.

Good grids

My friend Ayet of RSH Marketing recommended Saucony Grid Shadow 7 OR (P2,895 for men and P2,795 for women) for running. The colors available are silver, gray and red. I did some research at www.saucony.com and found that this brand specifically designs shoes to prevent injuries. Grid is an acronym for Ground Reaction Inertia Device. A shoe with good "shocks" counteracts shoe control and the user's tendency is to lose balance. Good shoe control alone is usually poor on the shocks area, which causes muscles and internal injuries common among runners. This shoe has found the balance: When the runner's heel hits the ground, the interwoven Hytrel strings bend to heel's shape and absorbs shock at the same time.

The tester was Ed de Villa. He wore the shoes every day for a week-and-a-half and subjected it to abuse. He is an entrepreneur who visits his factory, canvasses supplies at different places and rushes to meetings with his clients. His workout is the running he has to do to check if everything is done right, and random checks at his different outlets.

His review: He couldn't stop raving about the traction of the shoe. "The rainy season and the moss-covered sidewalks didn't slow me down. There was a definite spring to my step that made me run faster, and speed-walking was a breeze. I was skeptical at first because it was a brand I've never heard of, and although I loved the colors, I was hoping for no shoelaces or a more high-tech design—definitely a function-over-form shoe. There are reflectors at the back, front and both sides, which enabled me to walk/run at night so I was sure people could see me coming and going."

The cons: "This shoe is heavier than most; the first three days when I was just standing still, my arches hurt because it was being pushed by the shoe inside. There would be no pain if I walked or ran so I had to keep moving even just to pace or jog in place. This is definitely made to support arches much higher than mine. I must have broken it in on the fourth day because my arches were fine after that."

Make mine mesh

My shoe: Reebok Vroom Speed Mesh Cross Trainer (P2,495 for men and women). The colors available are navy, white and silver. I went through five different aerobic tapes with it and walked/jogged 5 km in them. The shoes turned heads and were so light it felt like I could dance ballet in them. I have no complaints about the traction and my feet felt cool because the mesh design allowed air to circulate. They were great for taebo, aero boxing, low-impact aero and brisk walking.

Unlike De Villa, I have very high arches, and this shoe didn't support it very much specially in high-impact (lots of jumping) aerobics. In one tape I thought my arches were going to rip. My Saucony was better for jogging and jumping aerobics.

Both shoes are available at Royal Sporting House (Ayala Center Cebu, Glorietta 4, Robinsons Ermita and Pampanga) and Shoes Shop (Rockwell, Shangri-La Mall and Isetann-Recto).

For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Make Over 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax to 897-4805.

High-tech shades

NIKE Eyeware has added a brand-new style to its sport sun collection. The Nike Tailwind features streamlined, aerodynamic styling inspired by the concepts of speed and airflow.

Tailwind's design incorporates the latest in Nike sports technology, including the patented Max Lens technology that minimizes distortion and provides a 51-percent larger vision "sweet spot." This translates to enhanced performance due to superior location judgement, depth perception, timing and hand-eye coordination for the athlete.

The Tailwind also features Nike's signature "occipital wrap fit." Temples are curved to better fit the contours of the head while temple tips are angled inward to gently grasp the occipital bone behind the ears for a secure fit. The Tailwind has a rubber nose bridge that provides a rig-slip grip. The eight-base lens has 100-percent UVA and UVB protection, ultra scratch-resistant polycarbonate lenses and hydrophobic lens coating to repel sweat and water.

Bright, sporty colorations highlight the Tailwind frame, with gray lenses that allow for true color perception even in strong sunlight. Color choices include Maple with Gray Lens/Bronze Flash, Ocean with Gray lens/Silver Flash, Shadow with Gray Lens/Silver Flash, Cranberry with Gray lens/Silver Flash, and Clear with Gray Lens/Blue Flash.

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See leaflets for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2448, Series of 2002.

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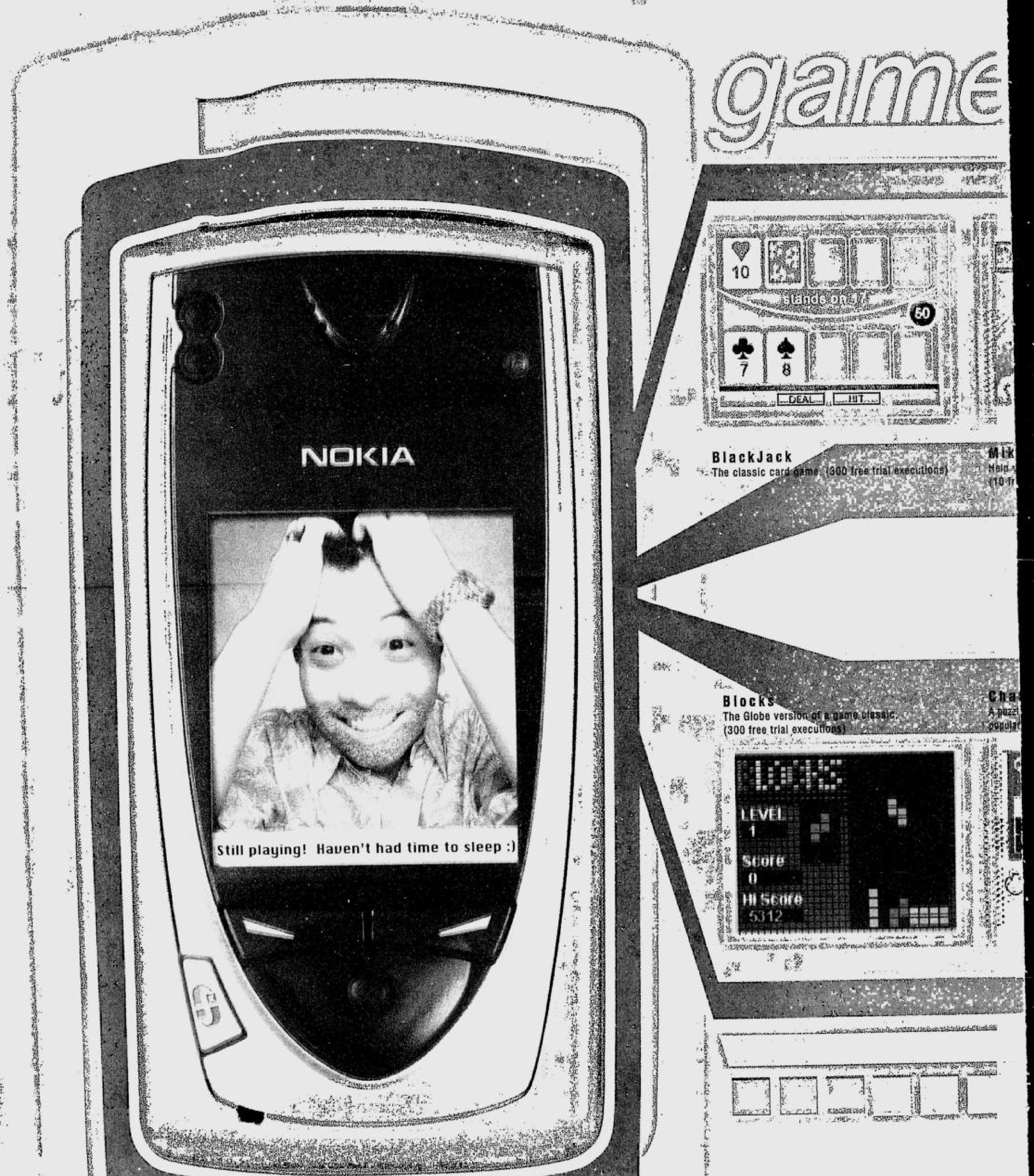
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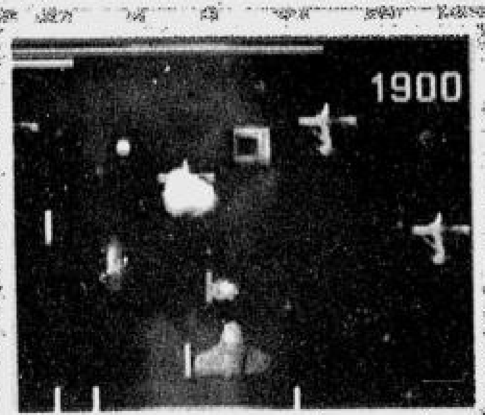
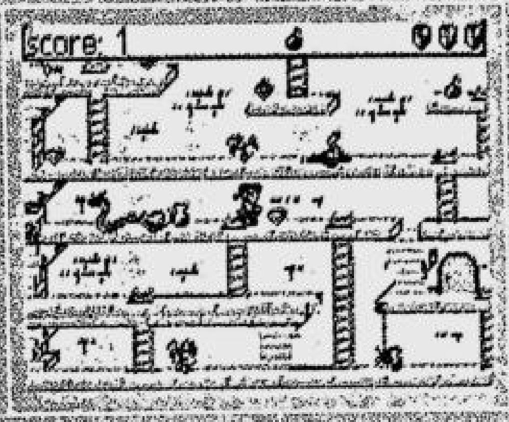


Axion
An updated version of the classic space combat game.
(free 1st level demo)

Score : 210
Level : 1
Life : 5

BombSub
Navigate your ship around mines... and *bombsubs*.
(free 1st level demo)



ConQuest
A sword-and-sorcery adventure game set in a castle.
(free 1st level demo)

New Globe HandyGames

Now Globe gives you more reasons to spend quality time with your Nokia 7650

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game mixing elements from different
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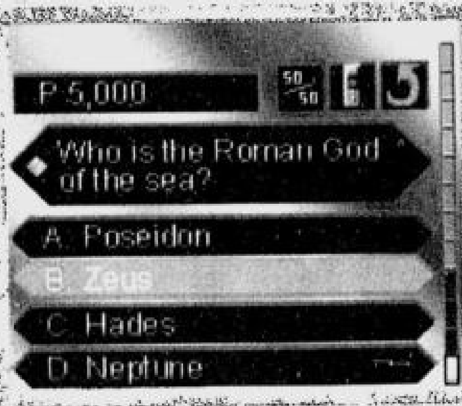
P 5,000
50/50
Who is the Roman God of the sea?
A. Poseidon
B. Zeus
C. Hades
D. Neptune

Word Mill
Test your vocabulary and texting skills with this
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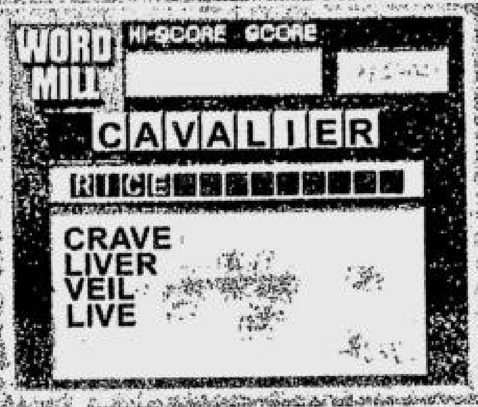
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HI-SCORE
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making great things possible

Globe
HANDYPHONE

Four exciting new lines for sporty types

LACOSTE introduces four exciting lines in its latest collection.

Merging the original Lacoste style and modern design, Sport Universe, Sportswear Universe, Club Universe and The Essentials offer an extensive variety of clothing for men, women and children.

Main colors of the Sport Universe tennis outfits are opera red, empire green and Barbados blue, paired with the Lacoste white. Also part of the Sport Universe is Golf, with very technical and weatherproof outfits for both men and women.

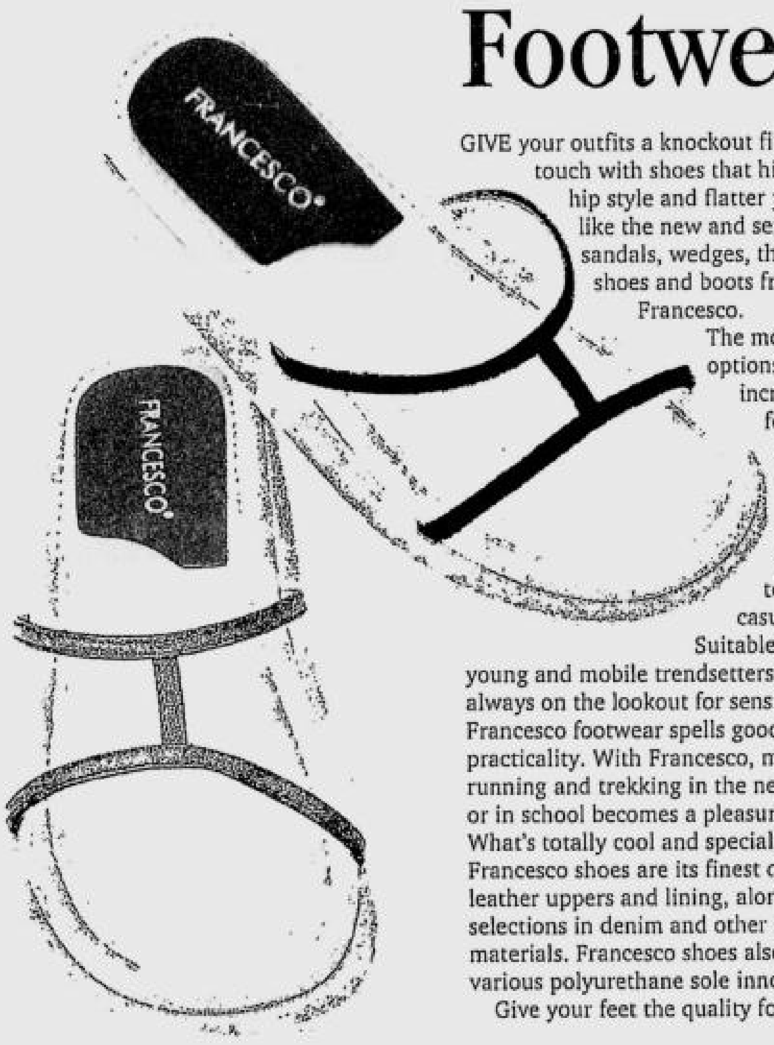
The Sportswear Universe suite has five themes—Biarritz, Chantaco, Street, Bowling and Beach. Biarritz offers modernized nautical styles while the Chantaco is exclusively men's casual golf wear. Street is for active people.

Bowling is men's and women's wear with colors that recall the '50s, while Beach offers men a collection of fine knit surf swimsuits in boxer shorts and brief models, and for the women, two-piece suits in bright pop art colors.

Club Universe offers casual elegance for both men and women. The Essentials have timeless pieces for men, women and children in the widest array of colors.

Lacoste is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Lacoste stores are located at SM Megamall, Robinsons Place, Power Plant Mall, Greenbelt 1, Grand Boulevard Hotel, Alabang Town Center, Rustan's Cebu, Rustan's Harrison Plaza, Rustan's Cubao, Rustan's Tower and Rustan's Makati.

Footwear al fresco



GIVE your outfits a knockout finishing touch with shoes that highlight your hip style and flatter your feet, like the new and sexy slip-ons, sandals, wedges, thongs, half-shoes and boots from Francesco.

The modern shoe options that offer incredible value for money, with their style and functionality, appealing for today's more casual lifestyles.

Suitable for today's young and mobile trendsetters who are always on the lookout for sensible buys, Francesco footwear spells good taste and practicality. With Francesco, malling, running and trekking in the neighborhood or in school becomes a pleasurable affair. What's totally cool and special about Francesco shoes are its finest quality leather uppers and lining, along with some selections in denim and other quality materials. Francesco shoes also come with various polyurethane sole innovations.

Give your feet the quality footwear they deserve, and get the top picks for weekend and campus wear from Francesco boutiques. These are located at Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City; 3/L, SM Megamall Bldg. B, Mandaluyong City; Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City; Upper G/F, Alabang Town Center, Alabang, Muntinlupa City; and SM City in Bacoor, Cavite City.

Denim in Paris fashion show

A FASHION show during the Paris Fashion Week early this year brought together a leading fashion designer and a top name in denim. The Lagerfeld Gallery show presented four denim pieces designed by Karl Lagerfeld and made by Diesel.

The two denim jackets and two denim pants, resulting from a collaboration between Lagerfeld and Renzo Rosso, president and founder of Diesel, were the first to be included in the Lagerfeld Gallery collection.

They would be distributed this fall in the Lagerfeld Gallery stores in Paris and Monaco, the Diesel Denim Gallery in New York, and a limited number of Diesel stores throughout the world (Tokyo, Paris, Milan and London), as well as in exclusive multibrand stores.

In the Philippines, Diesel is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc., with stores in Glorietta, Ayala Center, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center and Robinsons Galleria.

Fashionable ballet flats celebrities love

ELLE McPherson and Sophie Dahl walk around in low-cut styles; Nicole Kidman and Julia Roberts love Sturdy City flats; and Goldie Hawn and Princess Caroline of Monaco favor the '50s retro-quilted pieces.

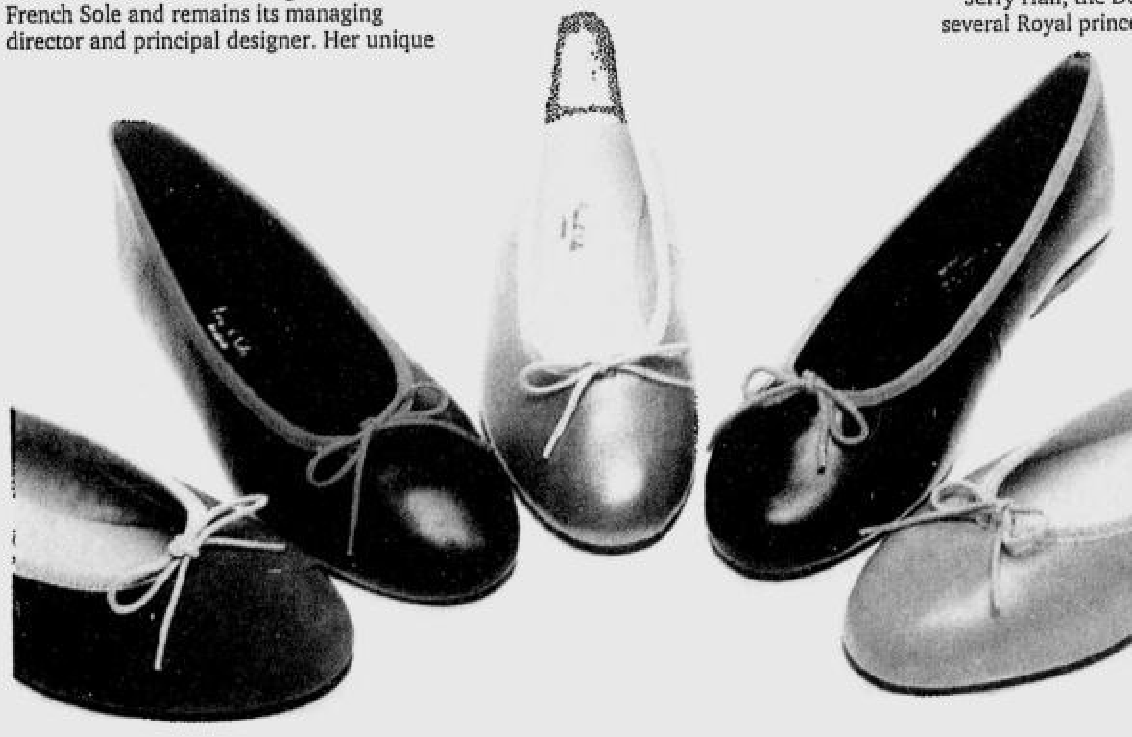
Such celebrities wear French Sole, a British brand of stylish, comfortable and affordable classic ballet flats.

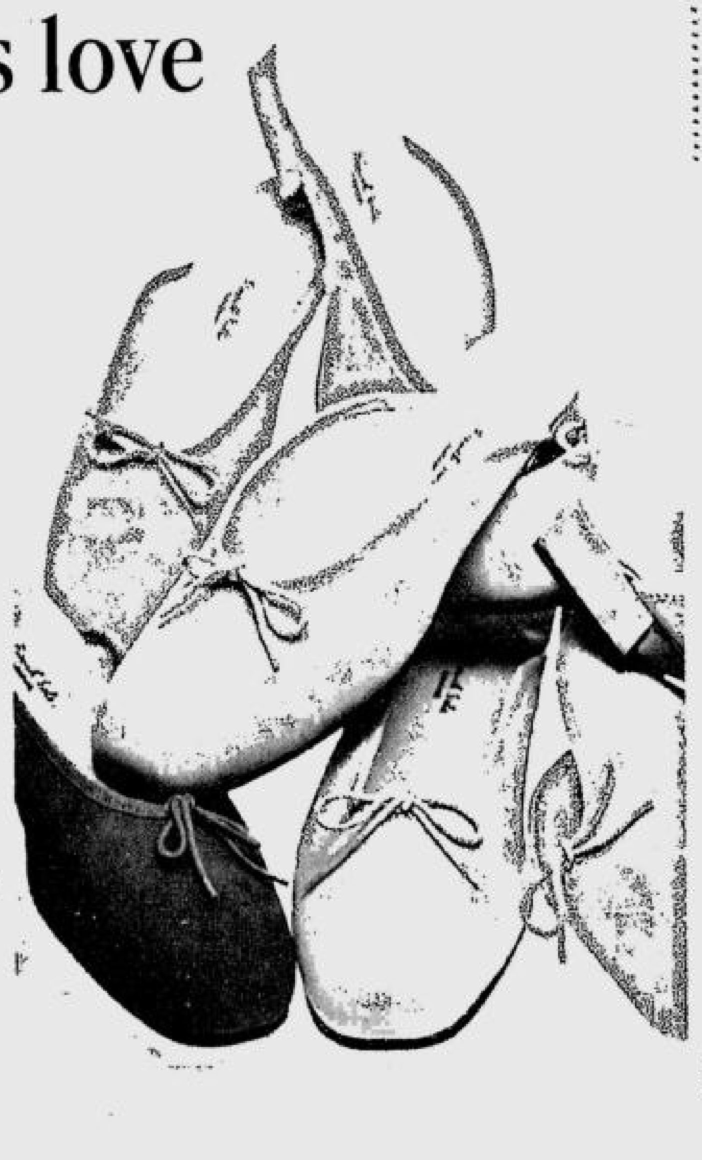
Jane Winkworth is the original founder of French Sole and remains its managing director and principal designer. Her unique and distinctive style is reflected in all the 400 colors and variations of classic ballet flats that have attracted fans all over the world.

Sixteen years after its launch, French Sole now has 30 outlets worldwide. It remains dedicated to the concept of the ballet flat as a fashion classic. The Low Cut is one of the most popular styles because of its delicate and feminine look. The Classic Simple is beautiful in its simplicity, style, comfort and durability. The Sturdy City is a real French classic with its contrasting toecap. The Quilted shoe, originally made famous by Coco Chanel, is updated by French Sole with the Paris Toe. The vamp and width are standard and the heel is always half inch.

Jerry Hall, the Duchess of York and several Royal princesses wear French Sole's square toe style, which has a high vamp, extra width and a three-quarter-inch heel. The Collection de Toile is made in a wide range of diverse, eclectic and unusual toiles, textiles and materials, from beautiful Italian-glazed linens to especially designed and printed silks, satins and cottons.

French Sole is now available in Manila through Fashion Specialists Inc., and can be found at Apriori boutique at 2/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center. Call 728-5259 or 728-5289.





Couple disagrees with columnist's 'silly and outdated' advice

LIVE AN
LET LIV

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I have lived in this country for 15 years and, fortunately, I see that the iron grip of the Church has eased a bit. After all, it's about time things should change a bit.

My wife and I have a lot of friends in Manila who are in happy relationships—still married, divorced, about to divorce or never intend to marry. It's love that counts and only love.

If LL, one of your letter senders, loves her man, let her be. Advising her to watch TV and read the newspaper is simply stupid. You obviously watch too many soap operas.

We think you should open your eyes a bit more and listen to what is going on. If you cannot cope with it, stop giving silly and outdated advice.

All the best to you and your ancient opinions.

LORENZ AND MARILOU

In the 12 years and 7 months I have been writing this column, yours is the third letter I have received with strong disagreement. Allow me to clarify some things.

For those who missed reading the letter of LL, she is a successful professional, with loving parents. She has a big problem—her mind tells her to let go, but her heart says no. The problem: Her boyfriend is married, but separated from his wife who now lives with another man.

I just told her to think about what might happen if she decides to live with him in that apartment he is now furnishing. I told her if she gets pregnant, the child will carry her family name. I did not state the word *illegitimate*.

I do not watch soap operas. I was just being motherly when I said she surely watched TV.

However, I am glad you expressed yourself. The first one who wrote to me was a teenager who disagreed with my answer, and she said she would not read PDI again. The second letter-writer was a woman from Dumaguete who stated that she could not see why PDI had a columnist like me.

I had answered the letter of a full-time wife and mother who said at times she was bored. I told her, just to make sure she was always nice to come home to, to attend to the needs of her children. I told her to take on a hobby, and have an aquarium so she could watch fishes swimming around while listening to the radio.

That lady in Dumaguete offered her a job, but I don't think it was accepted because that wife lived in Metro Manila. Soon after that, many readers wrote to me, saying that being a housewife was a vocation.

Best wishes to you.

On the request of Mo. Maria de los Angeles de Jesus, O. Carm., for donations to the chapel of Carmelite nuns, may I have their phone number and exact address?

I have her name written on my phone book, but failed to copy the address. At that time, I did not think I would have enough wherewithal. My friends would also want to share their blessings.

MEDING

The address is: Carmel of Mary, Star of the Sea, Mt. Carmel Street, Brgy. Plaza Aldea, Sitio Balimbing, Tanay, Rizal.

They have no phone number, but you can call the Bishop's Office in Antipolo at 696-4383/84 and look for Arlene. She can make the arrangement to pick up your donation.

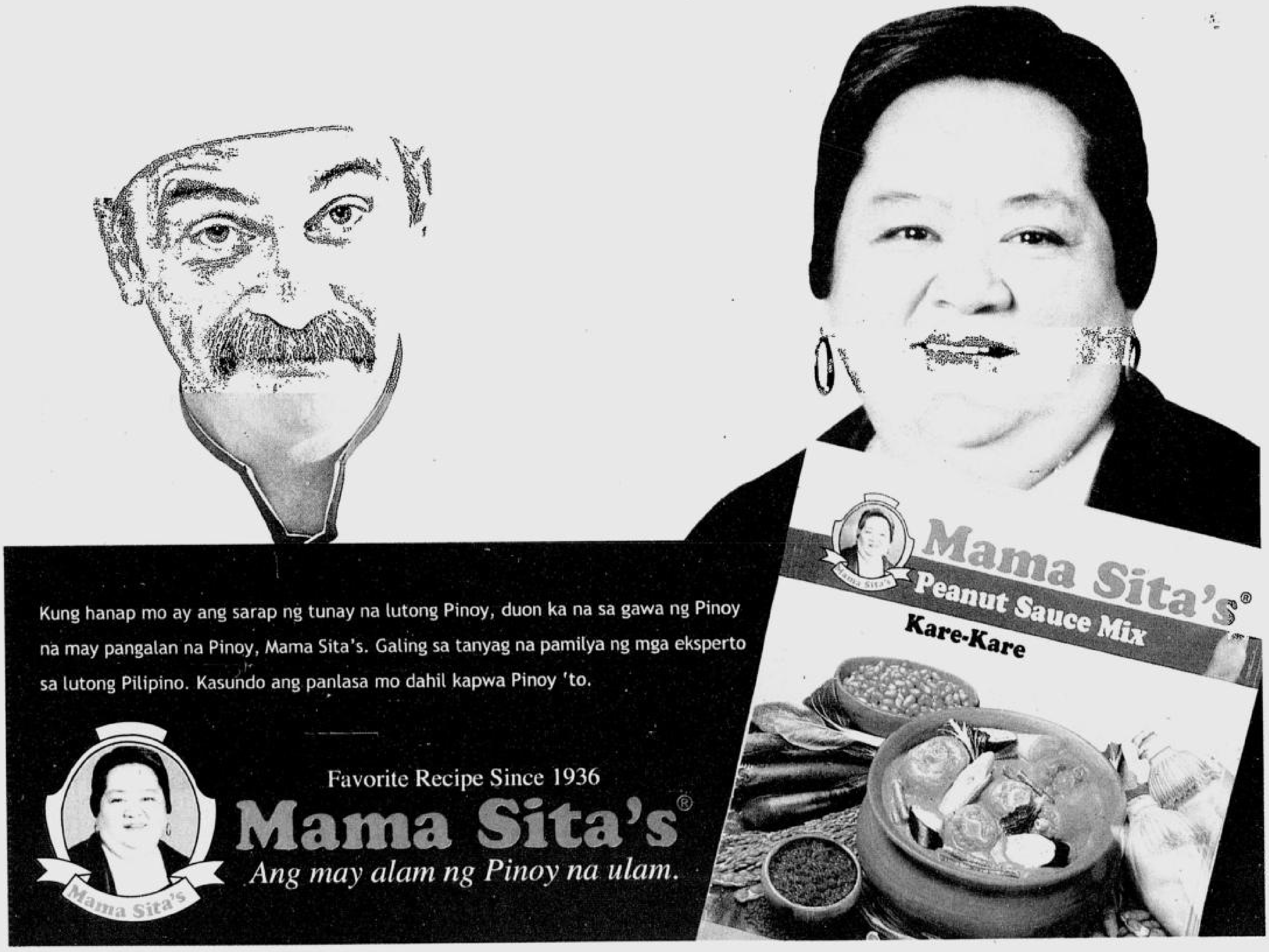
Tanay is under Most Rev. Crisostomo Yalung, Bishop of Antipolo.

You might even want to go to Antipolo, pray and make a wish at the Antipolo Cathedral. The Bishop's office is on Hinulugang Taktak Road, Antipolo City, inside the St. John Formation House.

The Carmelite nuns will include you in their daily prayers. They have to complete the construction of their chapel. Your name will be on the portion corresponding to your donation.

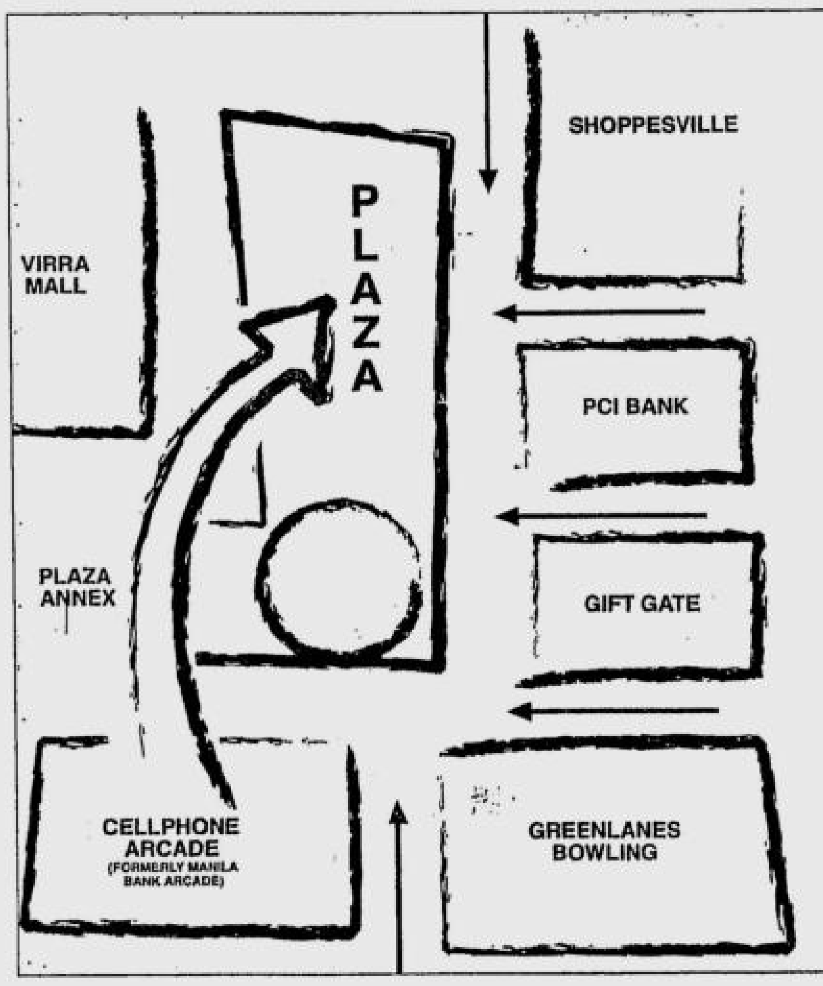
E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

SA PALAGAY MO, SINO SA KANILA ANG MAY ALAM NG PINOY NA ULAM?



Kung hanap mo ay ang sarap ng tunay na lutong Pinoy, duon ka na sa gawa ng Pinoy na may pangalan na Pinoy, Mama Sita's. Galing sa tanyag na pamilya ng mga eksperto sa lutong Pilipino. Kasundo ang panlasa mo dahil kapwa Pinoy 'to.

Favorite Recipe Since 1936
Mama Sita's®
Ang may alam ng Pinoy na ulam.



Cellphones get wider Area Coverage

at the **Greenhills Shopping Center!**

Due to an ever-growing number of shoppers, we're moving over 150 stalls of Cellphones and Accessories from the Old Cellphone Arcade to the much bigger Center Plaza. Beginning September 13, shoppers can enjoy hunting for the best cellphone bargains in a wider area.

(Refer to the map for directions to the latest "cell site" at GSC. All your cellphone needs, in one covered area.)

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER

PETSCAPADE

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PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. 0333 SERIES OF 2002

Organic harvest festival features unique fashion show

CREATION out of *abel* Iloco fabrics by Dita Sandico Ong, at the Organic Harvest Festival

A UNIQUE fashion experience will be the opening day highlight of the First Organic Harvest Festival until Sept. 15, 4/L Robinsons Galleria.

The fashion show will showcase the creations of Patis Tesoro and Dita Sandico Ong with the use of indigenous fabrics.

Tesoro is credited for rediscovering the *piña* cloth and incorporating it in her designs of traditional Filipino barong, handwoven shirts and gowns that reveal intricate stitching patterns. She has paved the way for other designers at such fashion houses as Christofle, Printemps and Calvin Klein.

The Philippines produces more than 100,000 meters of *piña* cloth each year for domestic and export markets. And more than 10,000 piña weavers and growers in Aklan acknowledge Tesoro as their inspirational leader.

Internationally known designer Ong's creations make use of *piña-lino*, banana linen, *abel* Iloko and banana rayon. Her works, together with those of Patis, are presented in "Katutubong Habi," at the Organic Harvest Festival at the Convention Hall of Robinsons Galleria.

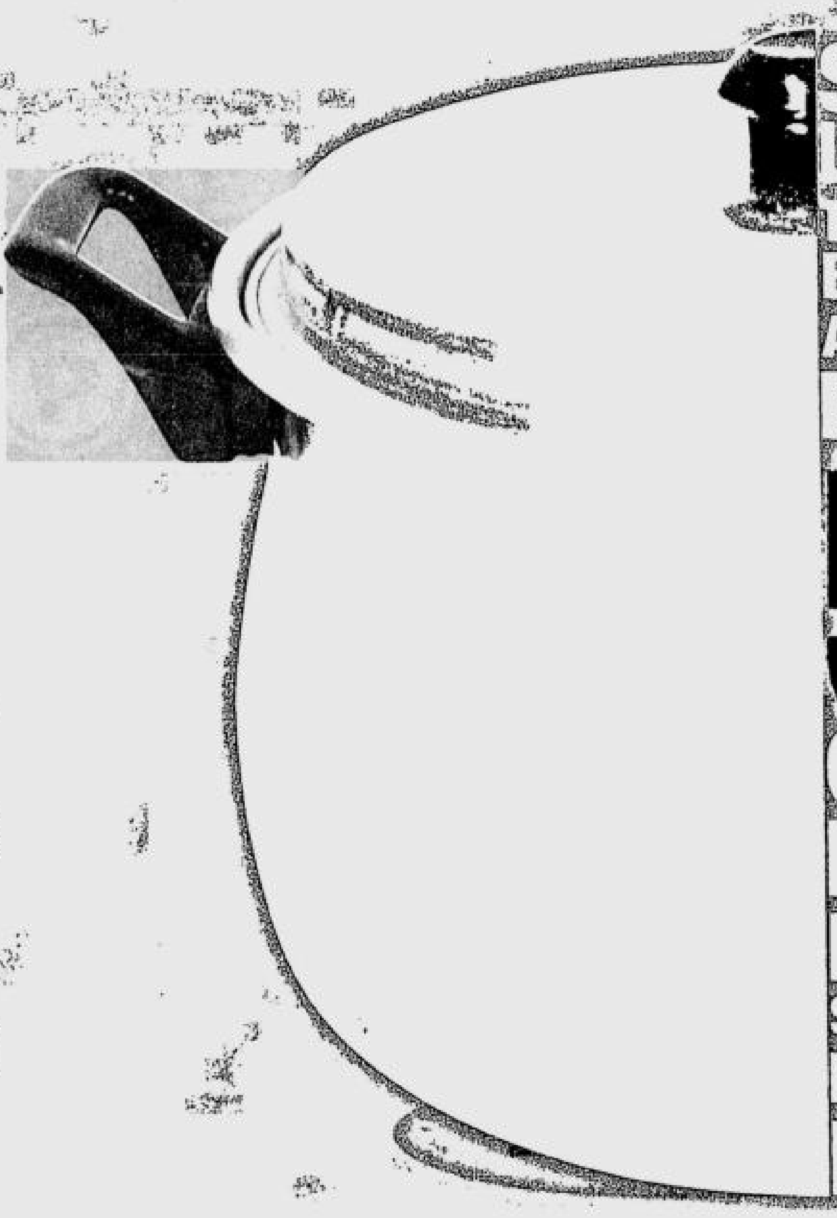
Ong studied fashion merchandising at Tobe-Coburn school in New York after finishing fine arts at the University of the Philippines. She is president and designer of her own clothing company, Cache Apparels. A versatile artist, Ong has attended merchandising internship in New York stores, and was merchandising manager of the COD (Cubao) department store for 10 years. She has likewise joined and represented the country in major fashion shows abroad, such as the Asian Young Designers Show and the Singapore, Finland and Weft forum in Sarawak, Malaysia.

At present, Ong is the president of Earthlite, a holistic center that caters to alternative living. She is also involved with the management of Earthhaven, a sanctuary dedicated to the preservation of traditional values and protection of the environment.

The fashion show highlights the four-day First Organic Harvest Festival. The festival offers an array of organic products and services such as food and drinks, herbal medicine, natural skin care products, household décor, organic livestock and dairy products, culinary herbs, and waste management systems.

There will be daily seminars on organic farming, bio-dynamic principles, fertilizer production, aromatherapy and essential oils, safe alternative pest control, medicinal herbs, ecotourism, organic livestock and aquaculture, herbs as potential cash crop, and green architecture.

Tickets to the fashion show are priced at P2,000, which includes an organic dinner. Call 371-2347 or 372-8624. Entrance to the organic festival is free.



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LIFESTYLE Home
F1

DUNKIN' DONUTS
COFFEE on the GO!

Things we hate but love to talk about

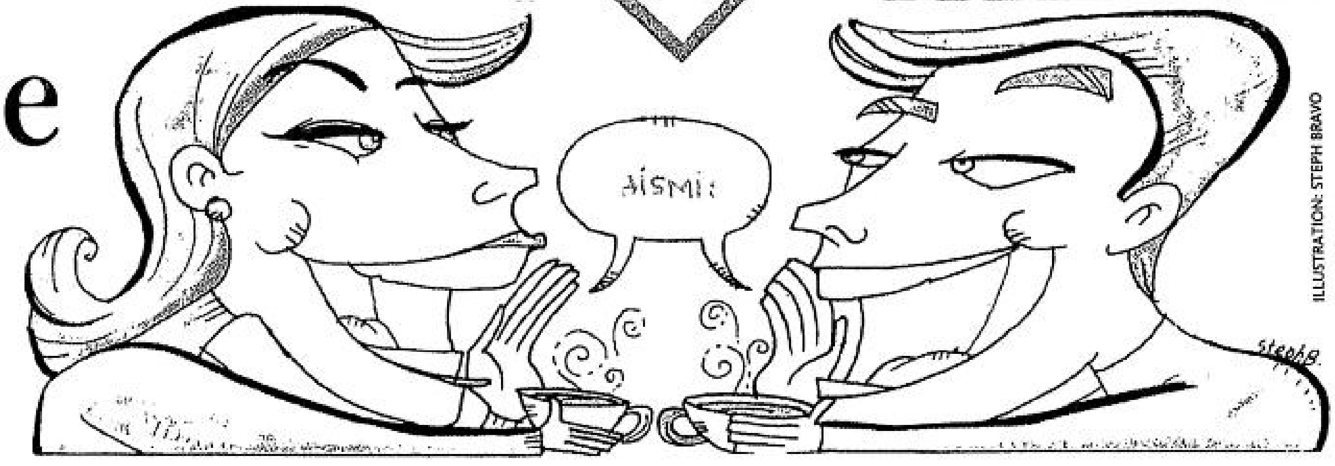


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

IT WAS one of those spur-of-the-moment get-togethers when my friends decided that we all had a common free time—and we wanted to see each other. After weeks of communicating through SMS, perfunctory phone calls and possibly smoke signals, we hungered for each other's company. That, or we wanted to spare ourselves the awful fact that all that text messaging was creating havoc on our spelling.

We also warned all those who would not be able to make it that they shall not be spared from being the object of gossip, discussion, and therefore, ruthless maligning. No, dear: absence does not make the heart grow fonder—just a little bit more acerbic.

So after a major pig-out (translation: hedonistic consumption of delicious food until taste buds go numb and individuals are left immobile like stuffed turkeys ready for the oven), we had our traditional shot of nonstop caffeine or wine. And it was at this point that we all decided that we should make a conscious effort not to talk about certain topics, if only to make this night a little bit more significant than the rest.

Banish show biz and politics as conversation pieces and Gossip Manila becomes Ho-hum Manila

Regardless of what society columnists, arrivistes, chi-chi photographers and chroniclers of local gentility say, Manila life can be categorically boring. We are, after all, living in a small town masquerading as a cosmopolis. Gotham we are not—although we mimic all the necessary gestures, sport all the right colors and still speak relatively good English. This can be sorely attested by the range of topics that people talk about—whether for intellectual stimulation, emotional masturbation or polite defamation: we have a tendency to be repetitive, incorrigible and, well, yes, parochial and petty. We have a tendency to make a big deal out of no-deals, turn celebrities out of insipid creatures because of their crimes and misdemeanors. We have made a national tradition out of backyard gossip.

So before we lit our cigarettes and asked for our first round of brews and wines, we laid our ground rules:

No to show biz

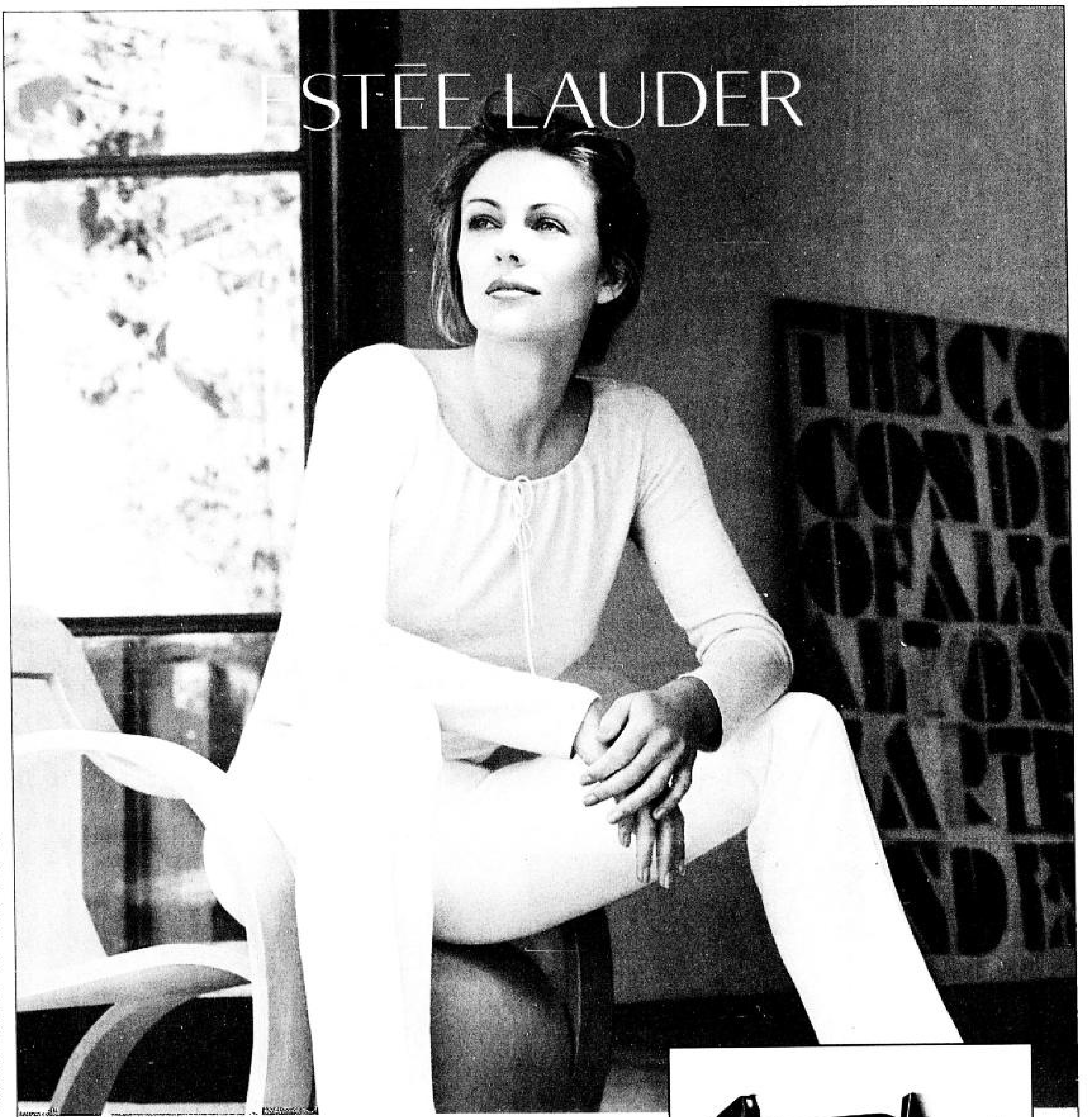
We would not talk about Kris Aquino and Joey Marquez. God knows we had had an audio-visual overload about that topic. News about that verboten love affair spilled out of print (from tabloids to broadsheets) and broadcasting (covered by the major networks in a variety of forms and approaches—with only "The 700 Club" exempted from a creative elaboration of the violation of the Sixth Commandment). This updated reinterpretation of "Madame Bovary" ended up looking more like "Clueless" rather than an ingenious retelling of Flaubert. Besides, blow-by-blow, minute-by-minute accounts of what really happened would not really hold any significance in solving the budget deficit problems of the nation. And it was as if we had not encountered this tired plot in every other prime-time soap opera that occupies weeknight televiewing.

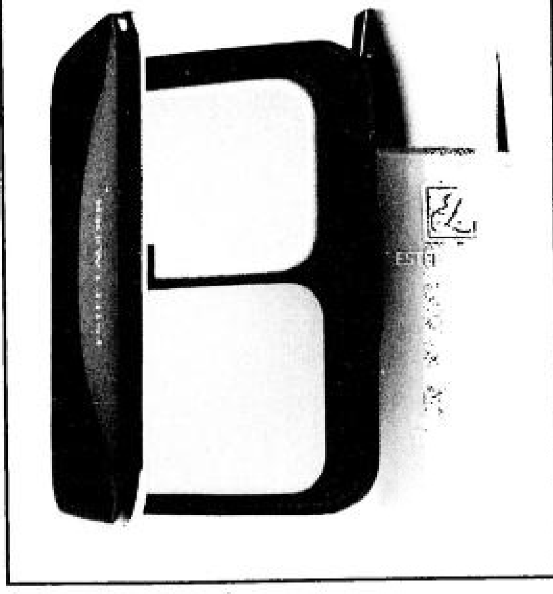
On the death anniversary of Ninoy, all our cell phones were literally exploding with text jokes meant to make mince meat out of the game show hostess turned femme fatale. All those ambush TV interviews—with a cliffhanger like, "Will she attend the Mass at Manila Memorial Park? Will her mother run up to her and forgive her?"—were the sort of stuff that made "Lovingly Yours, Helen" very successful in the '80s.

So please *lang*, enough of that. We would not even venture into speculations about the kind of therapy the maligned Miss undertook when she flew off to the US West Coast and booked herself at the Beverly Hills Hotel to find herself. We would rather wait for the filmization of the event to be directed by no less than Carlo J. Caparas.

We decided to extend the limitations of topic to completely avoid any issues regarding Philippine show business. We would leave that to Richard, Janice, Paolo, Lolit, Butch,

THINGS/ p.F3





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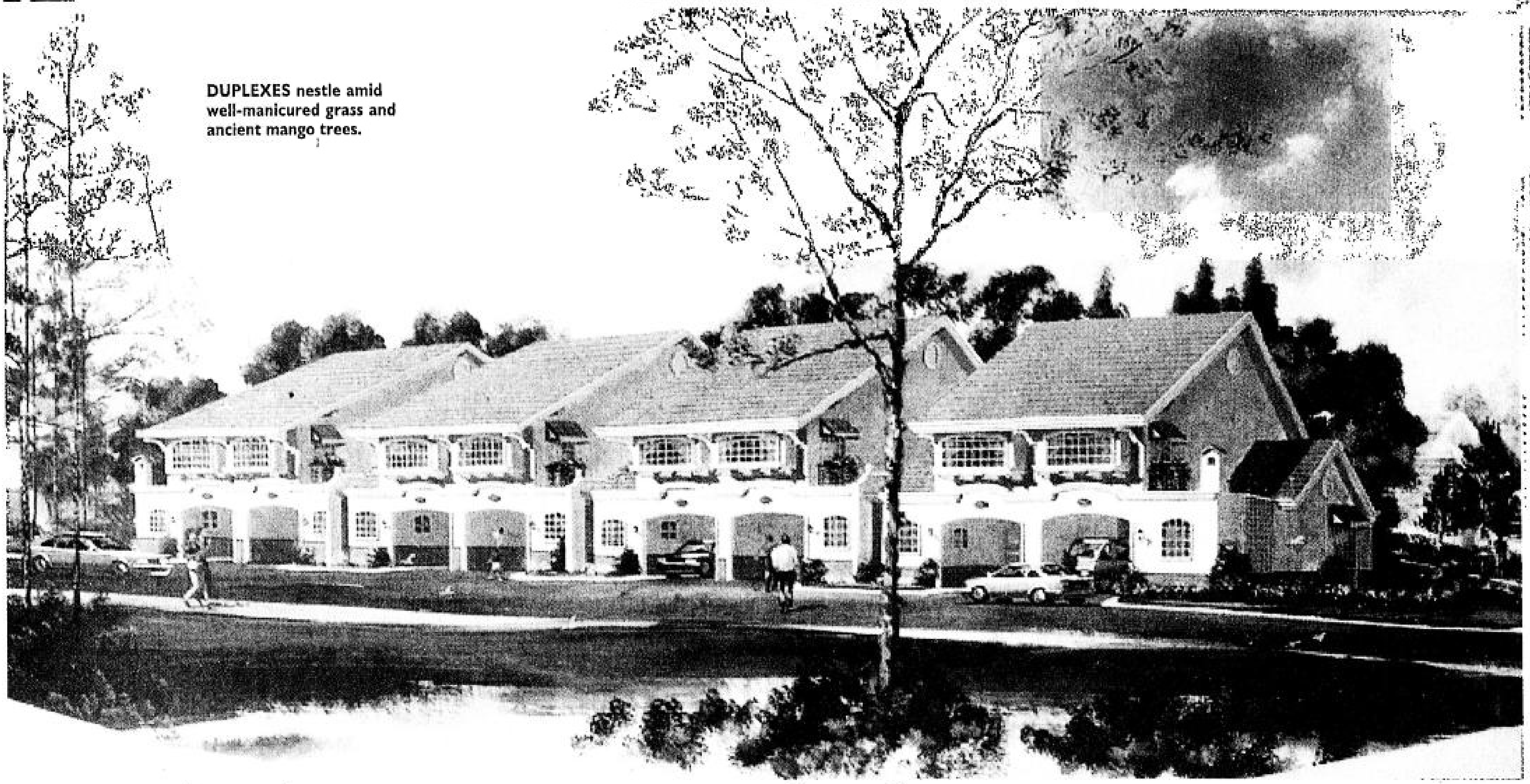
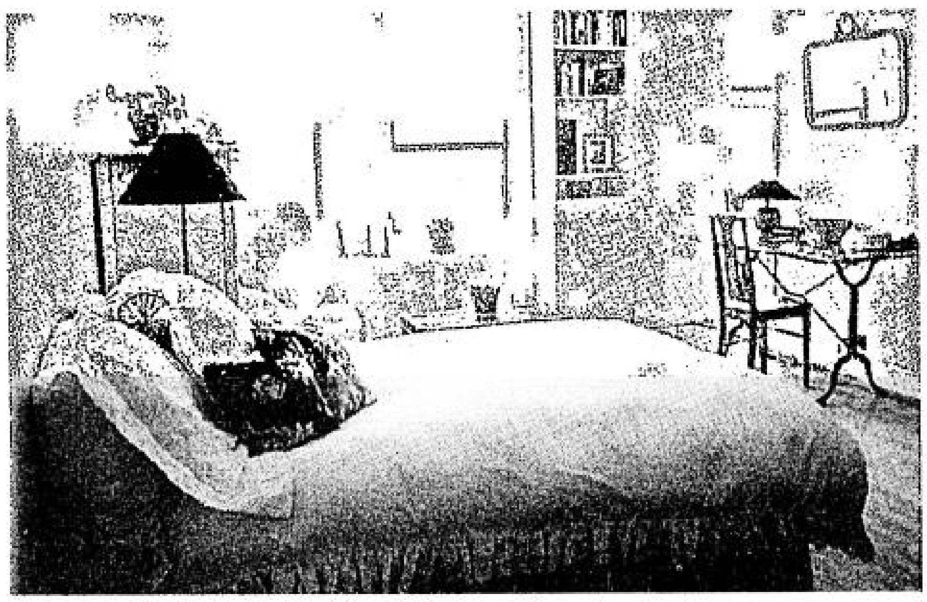


DUPLEXES nestle amid well-manicured grass and ancient mango trees.

English countryside living in Cavite

The Orchard provides a feel of the country with modern residential amenities



THE MASTER bedroom is aglow with sunlight filtered through panel windows.

By Constantino C. Tejero

A SCENIC drive through the fairways and greens of the Manila Golf & Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite, leads one to this spot hidden away from the hustle and bustle of Emilio Aguinaldo Highway. This used to be part of a vast mango plantation, 4.5 ha developed into a residential area, thus The Orchard.

These are clusters of two-story duplex and eight-plex type buildings, nestling amid well-manicured grass and ancient mango trees. Designed in the style of the English country house, the structures are washed in multiplex paint of white and green, beige and brown.

Fronting each unit is a carport and a pocket garden by the entrance. The Old English House effect is enhanced by the dormer windows on the sloping roof.

The structure is high-ceilinged, at 6 m from the ground to the second level. There are two staircases with newel posts, including one to the attic, each with three flights of stairs and landings, brown balustrades with green wrought-iron railings filled with tracery.

Upstairs are three bedrooms progressive in sizes, with flooring of dark-brown parquet, curtain-bar panels with carvings, and ceiling adorned with plaster-of-Paris moldings. The master bedroom has a bay window with a ledge, which, when furnished with a cushion, would be a luxurious built-in divan just below the window.

Bright airy feel

The master bedroom has its own toilet and bathroom with a tub, of cream and brown ceramic tiles. A common toilet-bathroom is located at the lobby.

The attic may serve as entertainment or computer room, office or library, or two open bedrooms divided by the stair landing. It's a wide, wide world up here. The dormer and the louvered porthole window on the gable let the light stream in. Looking down from the railing on top of the stairs to the ground is slightly dizzying since one is actually on the third floor of a building.

Precautionary measures have been taken, says The Orchard assistant supervisor Bess Mojica. There are fire exits for all the rooms.

Downstairs is a utility room that may be converted into a guestroom or maid's quarters, enough for one bed, a small table and chair, with a small toilet-bathroom. This is connected to the kitchen through a service area or washing room with a lavatory.

A powder room is located by the staircase, just before the passageway to the dining and living rooms, whose sliding doors of plate glass open into a terrace that can be converted into a pocket garden. The use of glass, see-through or curtained, gives the place an airy feel and the illusion of space. Panel windows filtering the light from outside enhance that bright country feel.

Fluid design

These townhouses are available in units with floor areas ranging from 120 sq m and 133 sq m to 180 sq m (with attic) and 197 sq m (with basement, balcony and attic). At P27,500 per square meter, the smallest unit has a total contract price of P3.3 million, while the bigger ones cost in the vicinity of P6 million. This is payable within 10 years, or through bank financing, with a 24-percent down payment and a monthly amortization of P20,000-P45,000.

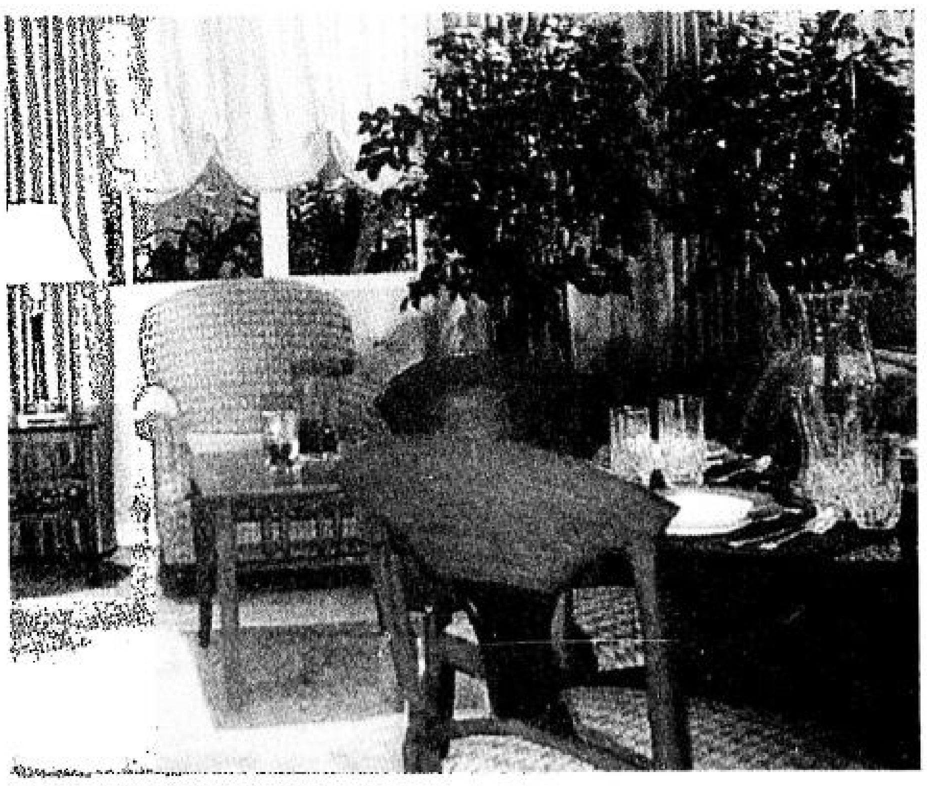
The place has also its own community clubhouse with well-maintained landscaping dotted with torii-like structures and open spaces for social functions under the stars. It has a covered basketball court, a tennis court, a gym and physical fitness center, a satellite parabular dish system. It has its own generator in case of blackouts.

The clubhouse and its landscaping have a fluid design. Wide concrete steps, designed like a low waterfall or ripples on a pool, lead from the sprawling building to a children's park and playground with a kiddie pool, and an Olympic-size swimming pool.

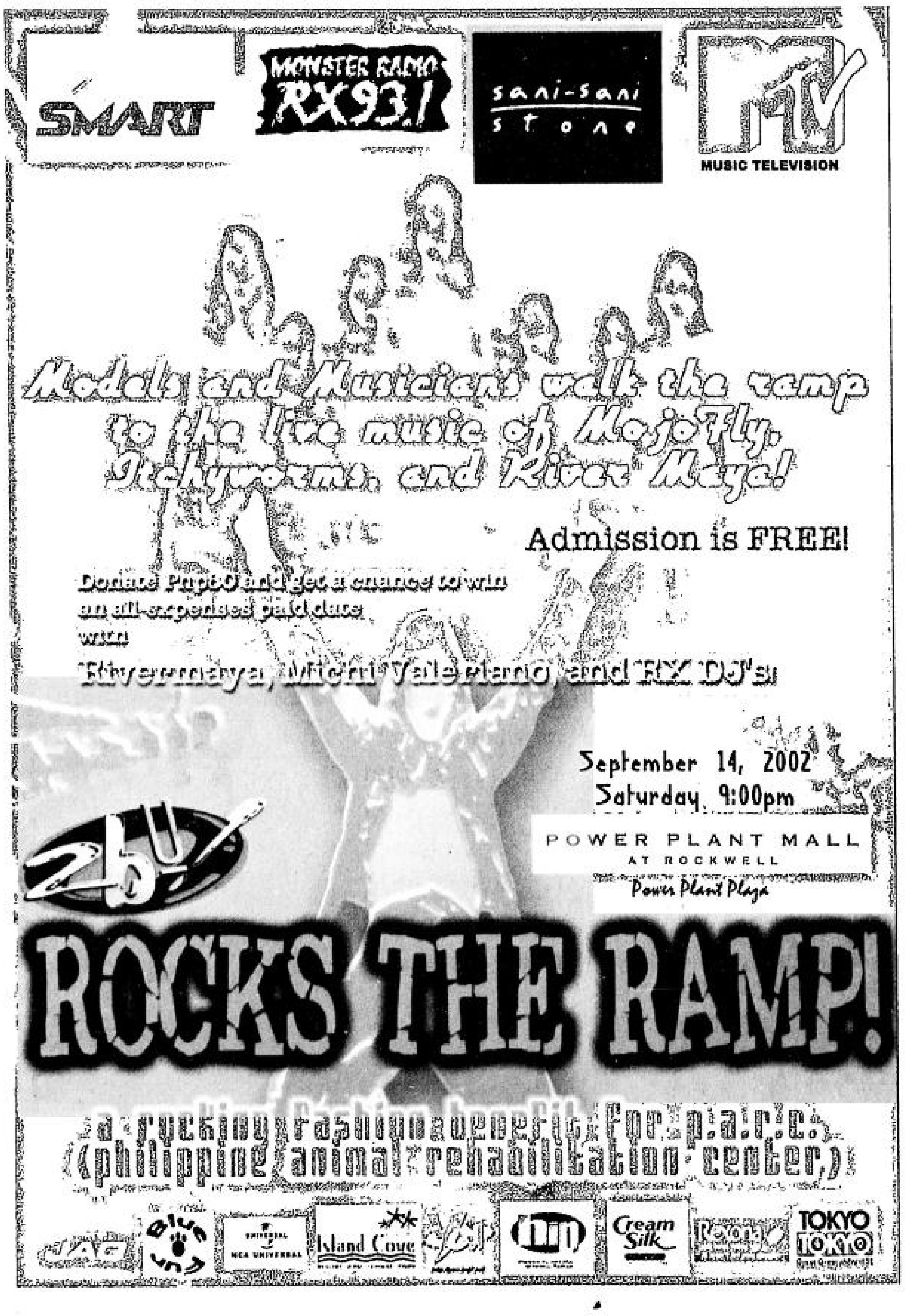
"Water is no problem," says Mojica. "We have our own water supply."

The Orchard is owned and developed by Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Inc. Design is by W.V. Coscolluela & Associates.

The place is within a 5-km radius of banks, schools, commercial and tourist spots. It is about an hour's drive from Makati in normal traffic. Contemplating the space around and beyond, one feels the sense of luxury never seems to end.



THE LIVING room has sliding doors of plate glass that open into a pocket garden.



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Early Christmas treats for kids

KIDS need not wait for Christmas to enjoy their favorite treats. Robinsons Department Stores (RDS) is holding a Kid's Fair this month. Clothes, shoes, accessories and toys will be available at discounts of up to 50 percent.

RDS is also giving away great prizes. Every P200 purchase gives a customer a chance to win a computer package or any one of 10 Sony Playstations. A P500 purchase means an invitation to the Kid's Party on Sept. 28 at all RDS branches, which will feature a magic show, balloon-sculpting, puppet show and lots of goodies.

Weekends are packed with more exciting activities. On Sept. 15, kids get a free face tattoo for every purchase of any Disney item. There will also be the Moose Gear Meet and Greet at RDS Galleria (Sept. 14), RDS Ermita (Sept. 21) and RDS Metro East (Sept. 27); the Pengo Magic Show at RDS Ermita (Sept. 14), RDS Metro East (Sept. 21) and RDS Galleria (Sept. 22); and the Cookie Monster and Miffy Meet and Greet at RDS Galleria (Sept. 21) and RDS Ermita (Sept. 27).

Things we hate but love to talk about

From page F1

Osang, Tintin, Boy and, yes, Kris, to provide us with regular updates and information. We would not talk about such earth-shaking issues as to whether or not the nubile breasts of this rising breed of screen nymphets were brought about by hereditary genes transferred ingeniously by chromosomes—or results of two-hour-or-so operations conducted by reputable cosmetic surgeons. We would not even talk about who among the *artistas* take drugs or included in that controversial NBI list that never got published.

Basta walang show biz! *Tapos*!

No to politics

We would not talk about politics! After three Edsas, even those that claim unwavering fire of nationalism cum patriotism, could get sort of tired. What transpired after the Great Change in 2001 had been the subject of too many discussions, disillusionments and terminations of friendship. As we sipped our cups of coffee and glasses of wine, the peso-dollar exchange rate was nearing P52—and we dreaded the prediction of Lucio Tan that it was going to hit P120.

We were not going to enumerate all the politicians who perform better as comedians—although trends seem to point that people in show biz graduate into politics and not the other way around. We would not even dare speculate about who among Chosen Many possess presidential aspirations in 2004—and how the game of musical chairs seemed to shuffle politicos from one camp to the other, like floozies cuddling up to the benefactors who promise to fulfill their dreams in having addresses in that Palace by the River.

And we were certainly not going to discuss the Lady Boss with an alleged Foto-Me complex, persistently being immortalized on front pages with either shy or dead criminals. It seems that omnipresence is one of her special traits aside from being a confirmed workaholic: she is always there when there is a big-time raid—she is always there ready to face the public with criminals whose eyes are either cast down (*nakatungo*) with heated shame or sealed shut in rigor mortis (*nakabuyangyang*).

No to economics

We would not talk about how hard life was. What was the point in discussing something that everyone already knew or was undergoing with no less than first-hand experience? Could it be a masterful act of creative masochism to consistently ponder on the prevailing economic and financial difficulties of everyday experience? Could it be a life-affirming mantra to spice every conversation with, "*Ang hirap ng buhay ngayon*..."?

After all, never was there a time when people did cartwheels, somersaults and other gymnastics feats screaming, "*Ang sarap ng buhay ngayon*!" Even during the times when we almost had an illusion that we were getting there because Prada opened a boutique in Glorietta, we never danced in the streets to sing "Happy Days Are Here Again." So instead, we kept chanting, "*Ang hirap ng pera ngayon*..." as if this common misery bound us all into a universal family.

Could it be that all these incantations about the misery of present-day life was the new "We are the World"?

With these topics out of the way, we decided to indulge in healthy, politically correct, inspiring and enriching discussions. The next 10 minutes were spent with tentative topics—about who had read what, who had gone where, who had done this or that. The talk was practically in monotone matched by the stifling of yawns and occasional notices sent to the waiter for more coffee or wine.

There was even an attempt to introduce the subject of the asteroid that was threatening to hit the planet within the next two decades, but then again that was thrown aside since it sounded so National Enquirer. Then after too many dead beats of silence, someone finally had the gall to ask: "But is it true that Kris is not seeing the Mayor anymore?"

Suddenly everyone was awake. And cackling. We continued our marathon tête-à-tête until we were thrown out of the café because the sun was about to shine.

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SPREAD potting medium all over the dish, covering the clay.

POSITION different plants according to your preference. In the arrangement for this pictorial, the rattan seedling is placed at one corner with corn and spider plants.

GOLD dust and miniature tea plants are placed on the other side. Remember to leave space between two arrangements to create a dry riverbed.

A garden you can bring into your home

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Romy Homillada

CRAFT

ADD pieces of volcanic rock.

ARRANGE assorted accents like driftwoods and twigs and stick them together with clay soil.

COVER drainage hole with a piece of screen patch to hold the soil.

A PERFECT way to liven up the interior of your home is to use an assortment of plants beautifully arranged in an elegant pot. This collection of greens in a single container is popularly known as a dish garden.

Plant expert Serapion Metilla says putting together a dish garden is quick and easy. "No special tools are needed for making a dish garden. As long as you have plants in your backyard, a shallow container and good soil, you can make a dish garden," he says. Even just a single plant can become a mini landscaping work of art by adding a few simple accents like moss, driftwood, stones and what-have-you.

To start your dish garden project, you will need a container, various ornamental plants, potting medium, moss, pebbles and other accessories. The containers can be made of clay, ceramics or cement. They can be rectangular, oval, round or irregular. An irregular-shaped container gives a more rustic effect. As to size, Metilla says the container may be 3 inches wide and 5 inches long for small dish gardens and 2 ft wide and 4 ft long for bigger arrangements. Two to three inches deep is preferred for height. All containers should have sufficient drainage holes.

For plants, choose those that are small or miniature. The plants must be hardy and be able to survive under the shade or indoors, and free of pests and diseases. Materials with colorful or variegated leaves are recommended. It is also advisable to use plants with varied forms such as rosette, creeper, columnar, tree-like in appearance or shrub, etc. Also popular are the seedlings of rattan, pepperomias, cacti and other succulents.

For potting medium, use a mixture of one part garden soil (preferably the loam type), one part river sand and two parts compost. Sand makes the medium porous while compost makes it fertile. To make compost, use either rotted rice hull or coco coir dust or a combination of both. You can also ensure you have the right mix by simply buying potting medium available in most garden shops.

As accessories, use rocks, preferably the rustic type, driftwoods, figurines and pebbles, white, cream or black.

Plan your overall design. "You can set up a mound to depict a hill or mountain," suggests Metilla. "If you design two mounds, see to it that the other one is smaller than the other. Two to three rustic rocks may be used but of different shapes, heights and sizes."

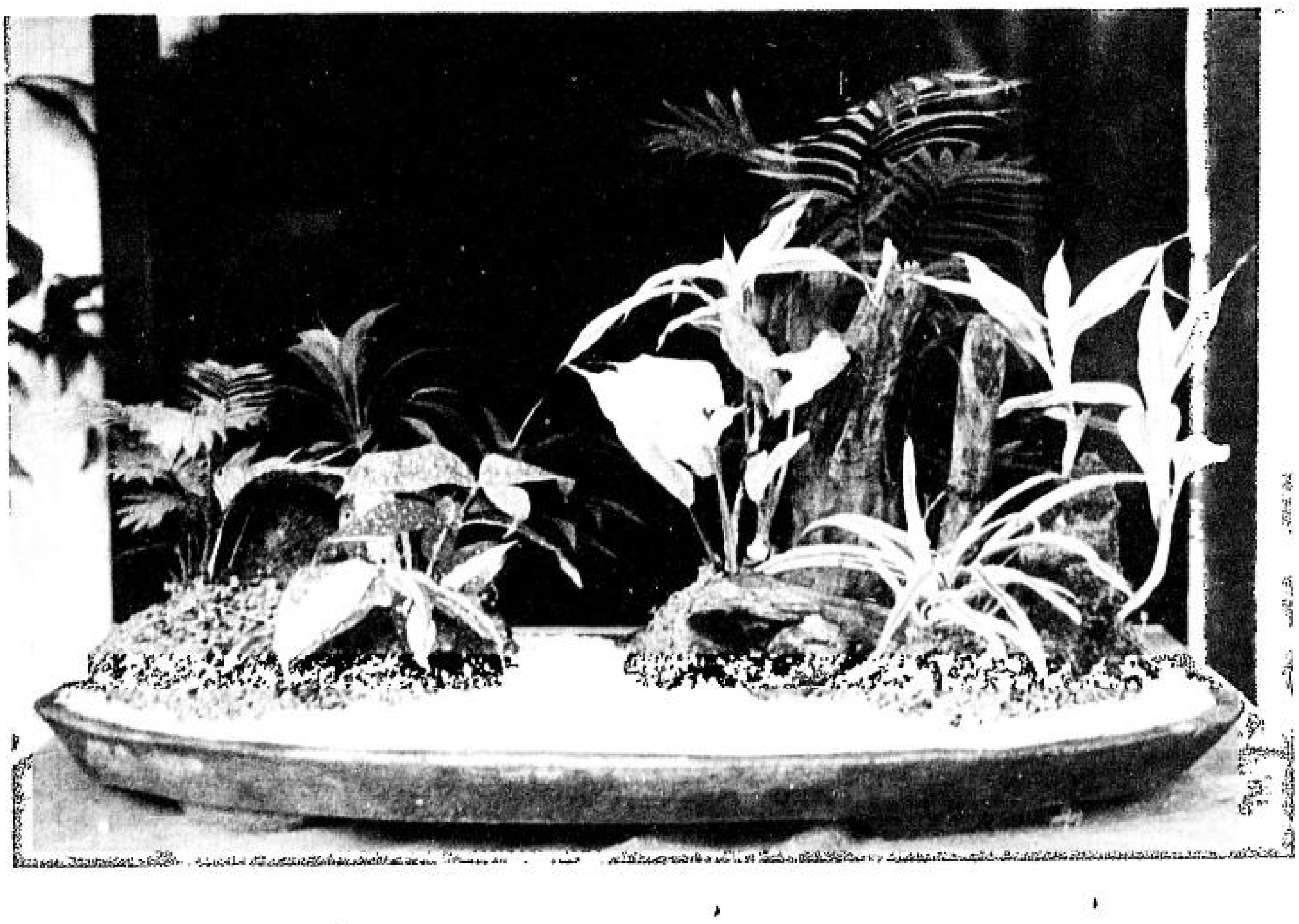
After arranging the mounds, rocks and driftwoods, position the plants putting the tallest off-center and the rest in different places—where you think they would look best—in groups of two to five. Some may be planted in groups or clusters while some may stand apart from the rest. To make the arrangement informal, avoid straight lines and flat top level. See to it also that there is ample space between clusters. Use carpet moss and pebbles (No. 5) as ground cover for the spaces.

Serapion Metilla gives special demonstrations and classes on bonsai culture, flower arrangement, ikebana, dish gardening and terrarium-making. He also sells assorted plants, fertilizers, pots and vases, dish gardens and miniature falls. Call 939-4593.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

> A single plant can become a mini landscaping work of art with a few simple accents like moss, driftwood, stones

PUT pebbles all over the arrangement.



FINISH off by cleaning the edges of the container and lightly watering the plants.

FOR A FRESH-LOOKING and glossy effect, wipe leaves with a piece of cotton dipped in an egg-white solution (beat one egg white into ¼ c water).

HARIBON board members Patty Araneta and Philip Camara

MONDITA Lim, assistant director of Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, with Annabel Plantilla, Haribon's executive director

FOREIGN Undersecretary and former Haribon board member Sixto K. Roxas with daughter Butchay

WINNIE Dosado, Aldrin Mallari and Rosario Bautista

RP's rich biodiversity showcased in exhibit

HARIBON Foundation held a different opening ceremony for the exhibit "Celebrate Biodiversity," which focused on the state of the country's biodiversity.

Instead of the usual ribbon-cutting ceremony, top Haribon officials and guests played out the intricate interconnection of animals and plants for the biodiversity exhibit.

Among the highlights of the exhibit was a special forest slide show featuring photos by Neil Oshima in a cocoon-shaped tent, giving visitors a feeling of being in a forest. A special video presentation on the Philippine Eagle, a collaborative work of Butch Perez, Kidlat de Guia, Jorge Arago and Gino Blooze Cruz, was made possible through Philips audio-video products.

Another feature was a diorama of the water cycle, activated by pressing a button. Facts and trivia on the Philippine environment was obtained by using the new iMac computers at the Interactive Digital Stations.

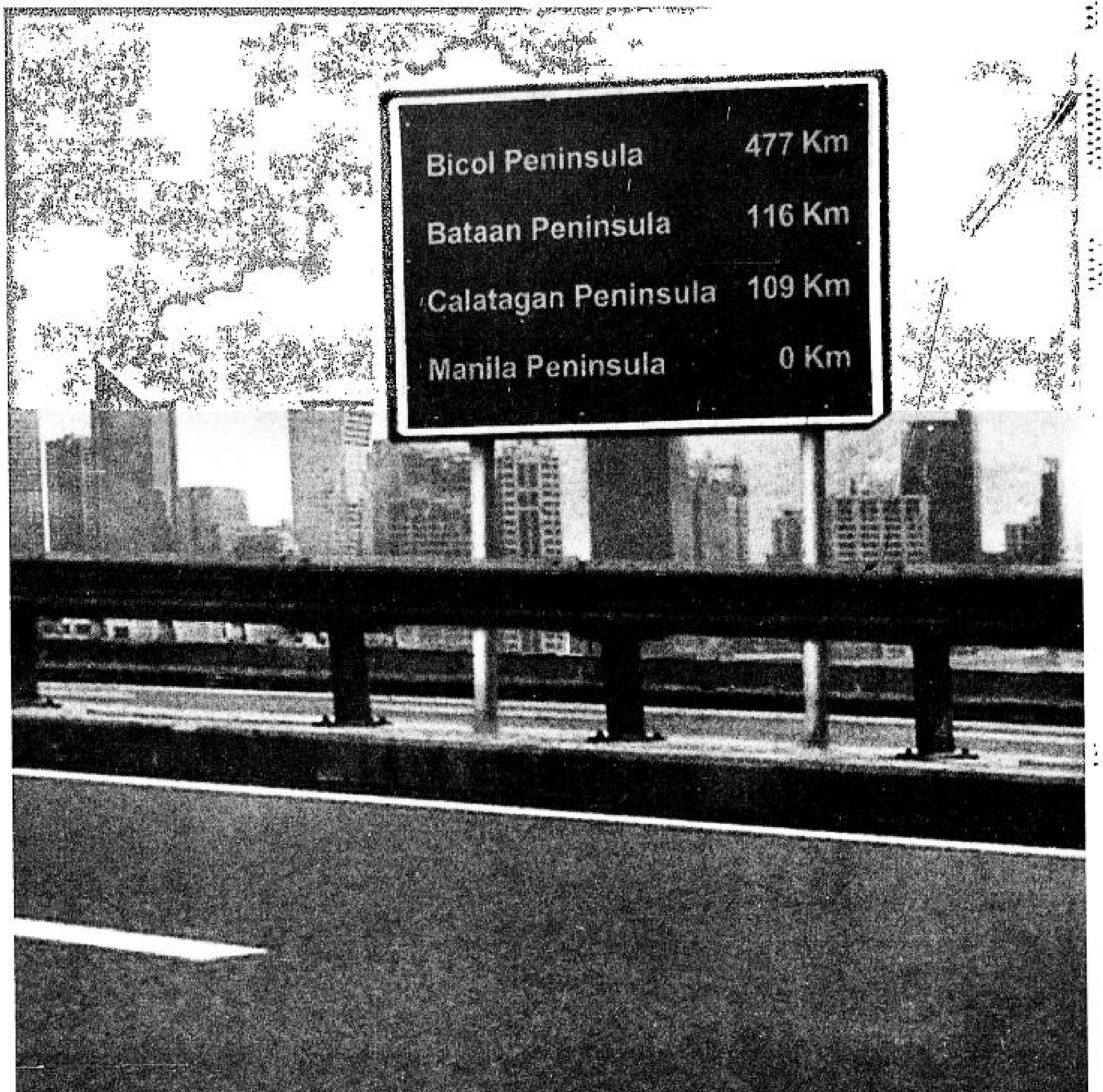
Children did fun activities like coloring and participating in many games at the Children's Corner.

At the opening ceremony were: from Haribon, president Fr. Mario Francisco, S.J., vice president and terrestrial ecosystem program director Blas Troy Tabaranza Jr., executive director Annabelle Plantilla, institutional partnership and development program director Dr. Aldrin Mallari, membership and communications program director Maribeth Baril, board members Belen King, Patty Araneta and Philip Camara and member Pinky Magsino; assistant director of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau Mondita Lim and marketing consultant Susan Roxas, among others.

Fr. Francisco explained that biodiversity was the total variety of plants and animals, humans included, needed to maintain a healthy ecosystem.

Plantilla said the exhibit marked Hari-bon's 30th anniversary. Through the exhibit, Haribon wanted to get people involved in the protection of the country's biodiversity. The Philippines is considered one of the highest biodiversity spots in the planet.

Haribon's biodiversity exhibit was made possible through the financial contribution of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Vogelbes-cherm Nederland and the support of Apple Computer, Inc., Philips Consumer Electronics, DWNU 107, BPI Foundation, Equitable PCI Bank and Cravings.



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FDAP SHOWCASES NEW CREATIONS
The Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines (FDAP), led by president Ole Morabe, and Century Park Hotel general manager Bobby Carpio host "The Century in Fashion, Year II." After a successful year, the FDAP will present its members' latest and never-before-seen collections. The fashion extravaganza runs every Tuesday until Oct. 29 at the Century Park Atrium Lounge. Call 528-8888 local 5837/5925/5851 or 528-5907. Photo shows Bumbee Ramos, Arielle Agasang, Ernie Uy and Gener Gozum.

Goings On

Bargain shopping at NBC Tent

THE SHOPPING madness continues this month with Shop@thefort bazaar on Sept. 14-15 at the NBC Tent. Organized by Karl Edward Int'l., this month's bazaar will feature quality gift items, home décor and fashion accessories at the best bargains. Shop@thefort bazaar is known for offering trendy décor, export overruns, children's books, toys, clothes and gadgets. Also available are homemade snacks, pastries and gourmet spreads. Shop@thefort is held monthly at the NBC Tent. Open 9 a.m.-7 p.m., the bazaar offers free parking to all shoppers. Shop@the fort also accepts local and international credit cards. A mobile ATM is also located outside the NBC tent. After shopping, check out the food center at the entrance and enjoy a light snack.

MALL TOUR. Talk show host Boy Abunda will reveal the beauty secrets of celebrities and the hot news about them in the Extraderm Fresh Face mall tour at the G/F Atrium, SM Megamall A, on Sept. 14, 3 p.m. Talk show host Tin-Tin Bersola and teen star Anne Curtis will disclose their beauty secrets. The Extraderm Fresh Face mall tour will showcase a whole day of skin-pampering treats for mall-goers, with free beauty and skin care treatments, ranging from soothing facial massages to on-the-spot skin analysis and consultations. Also in store for SM shoppers are exciting raffles and games.

SEMINAR. Jaime T. Licauco, INQUIRER columnist and president of Inner Mind Development Institute, will conduct three different seminars this month: "Inner Mind Development" on Sept. 14-15, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; "Basic ESP and Intuition Development," Sept. 21-22; and "Soulmates, Karma and Reincarnation," Sept. 28, 1-7 p.m. All seminars will be held on weekends at Room 308, Prince Plaza 1,106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Call 810-7245 or 892-6806.

GREAT BUYS. On Sept. 19-29, Market at the Plaza bazaar will be held at the Plaza of Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center. The bazaar, which will showcase various products, will open 11 a.m.-11 p.m. on weekdays and until 12 a.m. on weekends. This event is organized by PLA Events Planner. Call 688-4501/438-9352.

LECTURE. The Linangan sa Imahen, Retorika at Anyo and the Filipino Department of the Far Eastern University will celebrate Amado V. Hernandez's 99th birth anniversary through a lecture tomorrow, 2-4 p.m. Dubbed "Ang Panitikan at Ang Bayan," the lecture will be delivered by Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera at the FEU Science Building's Audiovisual Room, Manila campus.

FURNITURE SHOW. The 9th Annual National Antiques, Jewelries, Costumes, Oriental and Tribal Arts, Furniture and Furnishing Show is ongoing until Oct. 6 at the Centermall, Greenhills Shopping Complex. Call 820-3862 or 826-8162/6732.

PROMO. The Plaza Inc. will hold its 35th anniversary raffle promo, "Party with The Plaza and Have Fun in California," on Sept. 30. Book a party on or before Sept. 30 and get a chance to win round-trip tickets for two to California, USA. Thirty-five gift certificates worth P2,000 each from The Plaza Inc. are also at stake. Drop raffle coupons at designated boxes at the Greenbelt Shopping Plaza in Makati City or at The Plaza Catering offices on A. Mabini Street corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. Deadline for submission of entries is on Oct.5. The grand draw will be held at Dining Hall B of Wack-Wack Golf & Country Club on Oct. 10, 3 p.m. Call 727-1944 or 723-2413.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER. Catholic Engaged Encounter Philippines is celebrating its 5th year with "A Twin Anniversary Dinner" on Sept. 26, 6:30 p.m., at the Sunset Kalayaan Lounge of Urban Bank Plaza (now Export Bank Plaza), Chino Roces corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Call 721-4153 or 722-2315.

EXHIBIT. The writings of Virginia Benitez Licuanan will be installed in the Ateneo Library of Women's Writings. The ceremony, which coincides with the author's 85th birthday, is on Sept.16, 3:30 p.m. at the Escaler Hall of the Ateneo University Campus.

ACTIVITY. The City of Koronadal in South Cotabato will host "Vino de Honor" on Oct. 8 at the South Cotabato Gym for the men and women who have brought honor to the city. The event is part of Koronadal's 2nd Charter Celebration, which begins Oct. 6. Other activities include a trade fair exhibit, the 2nd Mayor's Kiddie Chess Cup, motorcycle drag race, team dancing competition, San Miguel Beer Octoberfest, float competition, marching bands contest and cycling exhibition. Call (083) 228-4141/2438.

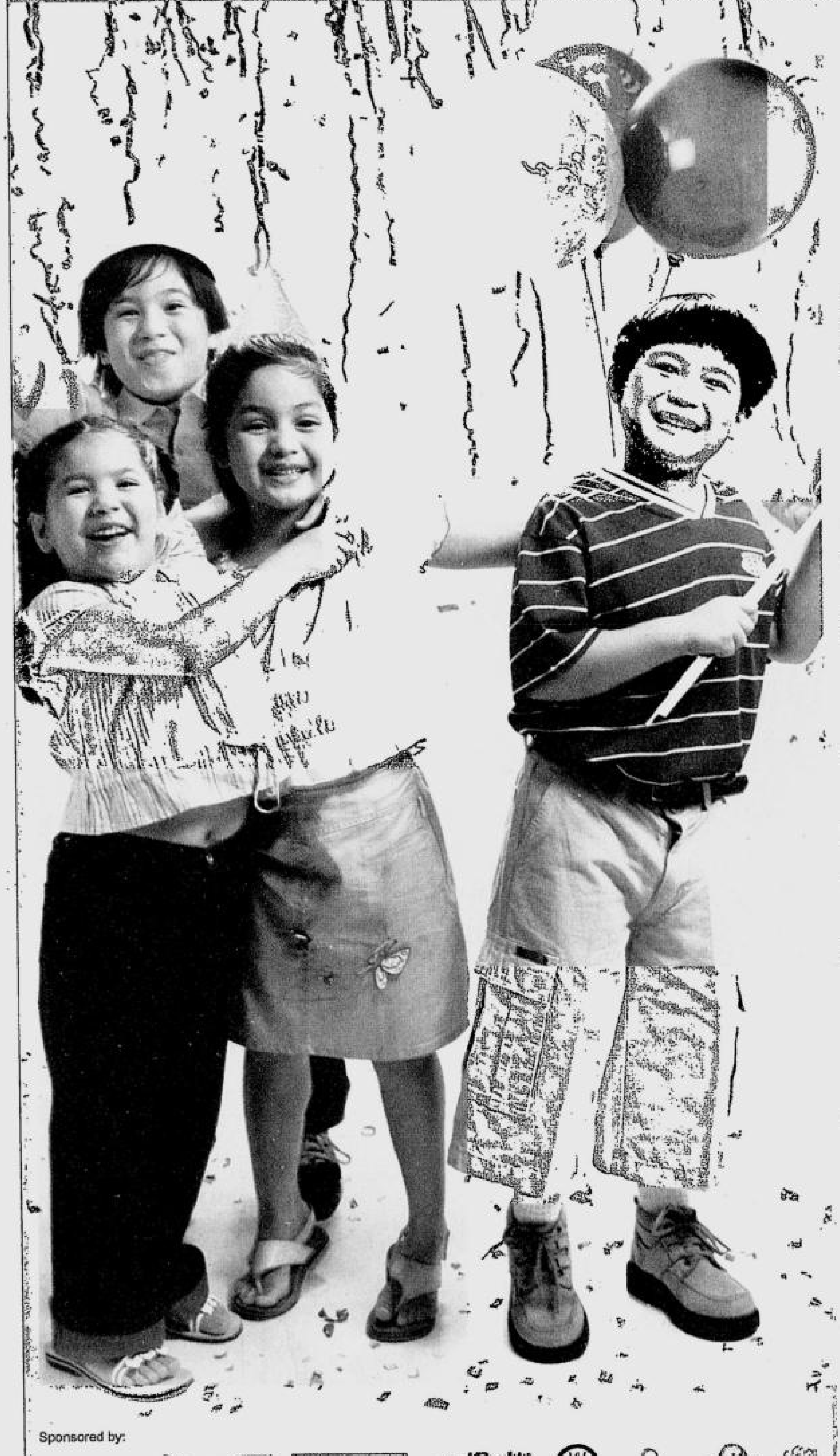
WRITING WORKSHOP. Tower Book House is offering a creative writing workshop for adults (22 years and above) every Saturday of September. Call Tower Book House at 815-6925/4938 or (0918) 815-9337 or visit its offices at Windsor Towers, Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Writer-book author-publisher Visitacion "Chit" de la Torre will conduct the workshop.

SEMINAR. Vine Communications Inc. is offering seminars on creative writing dubbed "Creative Writing Made Easy," to be conducted by veteran journalists/educators who have extensive experience in magazine editing, column and feature writing. The seminars are set on Oct. 5, "Unlocking The Creative You: Tools and Techniques to Enhance Your Writing," and Oct. 26, "Expanded Techniques in Creativity," 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at 7 Brooklyn St., Cubao, QC. Also being scheduled is the seminar "English, The Easy Way" for high school and college students, and professionals. Call 721-7976, 850-8603 or (0917) 832-5536, (0919) 242-0238.

MEDICAL MISSION. The Parent-Teacher Council of the Miriam College grade school, with the Lion's Club of Obando, will hold a medical/dental mission dubbed "Gamutan sa Miriam" on Oct. 12 at the Miriam Grounds. The council is accepting voluntary contributions until Sept. 30. In particular, medicines, such as paracetamols, antibiotics, pain relievers, cough and cold tablets/syrups, ibruprofens and ointments and creams for various skin diseases, vitamin supplements, vaccines and medical supplies, such as syringes, cottons and disposable gloves are needed. Call 371-1063 to -64, 259-1174 or (0917) 369-1824.

FUND-RAISER. In Touch Community Services, with Sta. Fe Moving and Relocation and Sky Cable, holds its fund-raiser "Tropical Avalanche," on Oct. 4 at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio. Proceeds will benefit In Touch Community Services, a nonsectarian, nonprofit agency that has provided valuable assistance to Filipinos and expatriates alike for the past 22 years, through the Telephone Crisis Line, Subsidized Face to Face Counseling, Art Therapy and other well-being courses and seminars. Call 893-7606/1893 or 810-6233, or visit 48-A McKinley Road, Forbes Park.

COMPUTER PACKAGES. Avid Sales Corp. recently launched affordable computer packages for as low as P18,999. The packages are available at Beyond Computer Store Farmer's Plaza, AV Surfer. Call Audio-Video Center at Robinsons Galleria, Avid Sony Shop and Best Brands outlets. Call 525-3634/2215/3547.



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Sept. 22 - Robinsons Galleria
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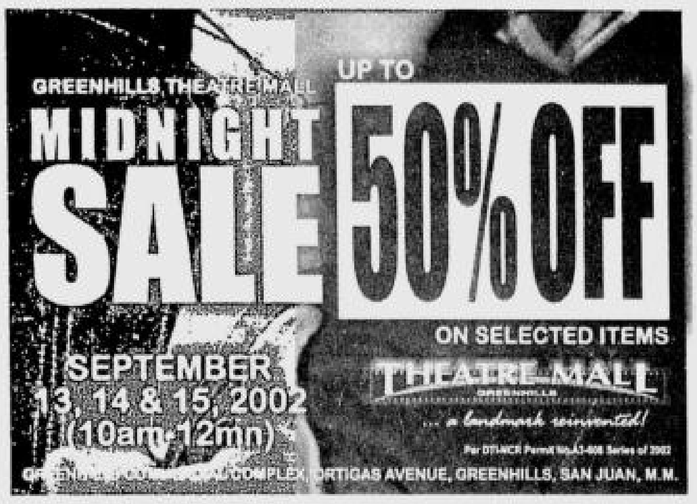
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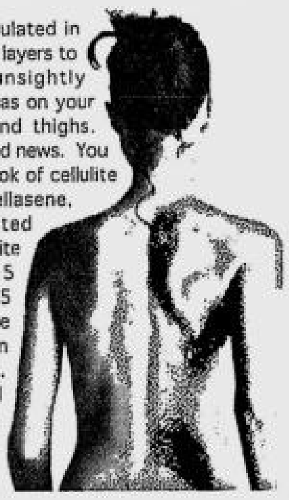
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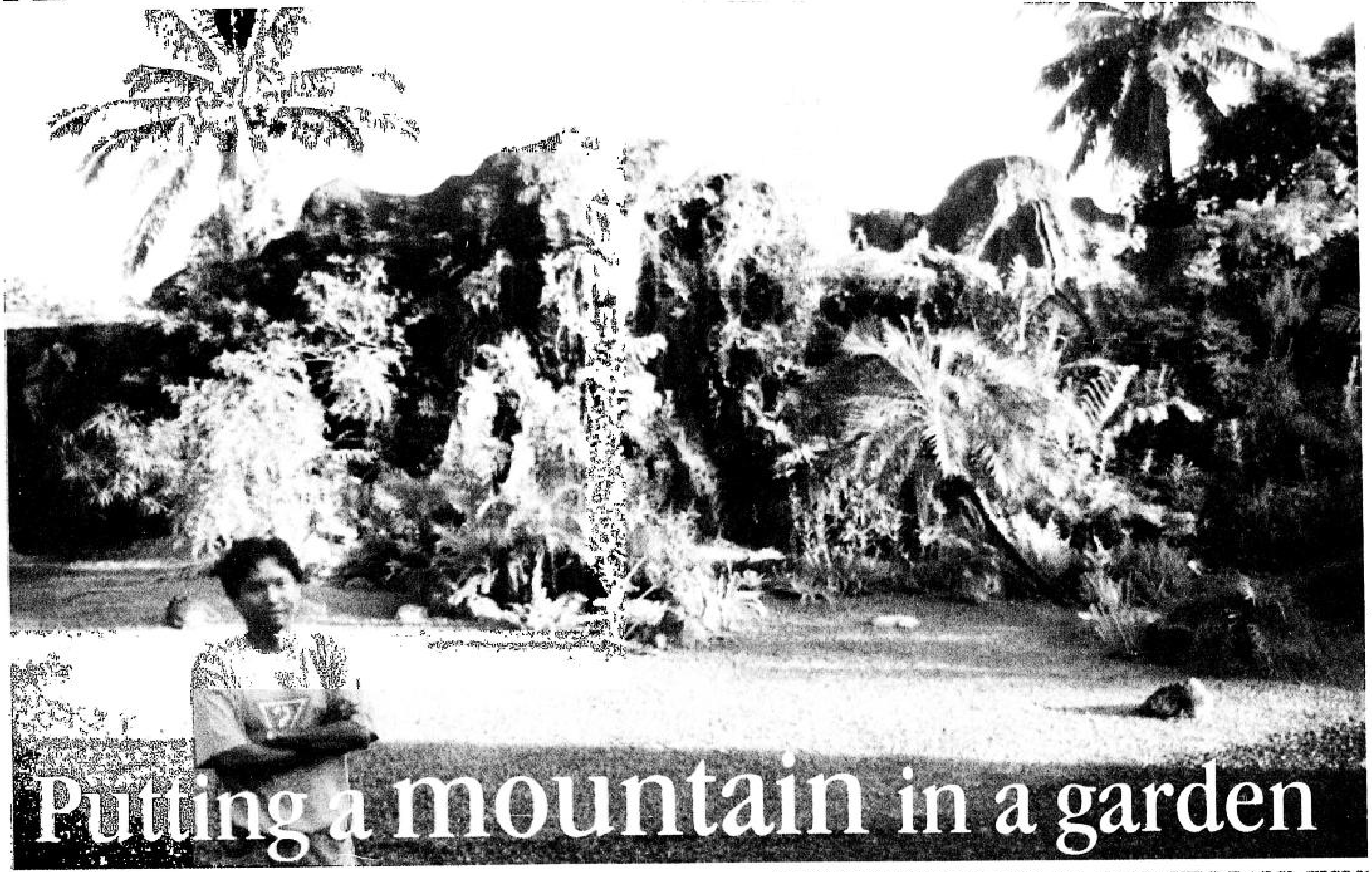


Putting a mountain in a garden

NATURE-INSPIRED landscape by Lorenz Inos Jr. features a mini mountain and waterfall.

Text by Tita V. Giron
Photos by Romy Homillada

WATERFALL as focal point in a garden? Yes, we could very well visualize it. But mountain landscape in a residential garden?

We couldn't imagine one, no matter how hard we tried, until we got an invitation from Nueva Ecija's young landscaper Lorenzo Inos Jr. to see the mountain garden he created right in his backyard.

The 27-year-old self-taught landscaper is known for the back-to-nature look of his gardens. Although relatively new in the landscaping business, he has already made his mark with the soft and natural look of his gardens. For ideas and inspiration, he says he "borrows from nature, not from the glossy pages of landscape and architectural magazines and books."

When we interviewed him last year about the waterfall landscape he designed in a cattle rancher's place in Nueva Vizcaya, he talked excitedly about the mountain landscape he and his father and namesake, Enzo Sr., were recreating in their own garden.

We thought then it was an ambitious plan, an impossible dream. It was, therefore, a pleasant surprise to see the dream come true when we visited the Inos garden in Talavera, Nueva Ecija, last week.

Mountain scene

The mountain garden is set at the back of the Inos house, at the farthest end of a sloping terrain carpeted with Kentucky grass and surrounded by sections in varying designs. Approximately 18-ft high at the peak and twice as wide at the base is a scaled-down mountain, complete with waterfall, cascading water, pond, a profusion of plants and cave.

GARDEN furniture is from recycled parts of farm plow and railroad ties. Spider accessory, made of plant roots, is a creation of Lorenz Inos Jr.

Ferns of all kinds spill out of crevices—drynaria, polypodium, bird's nests, staghorn. Contrasting with the ferns' feathery foliage are native orchids and ornamental plants mingling with indigenous species. As expected, weeds like cogon grass have found their home on the mountain slope.

"Mountain gardens change with day and night, and with the sun and the rain," Lorenz pointed out.

As we sat in the verandah that offered a panoramic view of the garden, we saw the interplay of colors on the dappled leaves of the native *balibago* tree, the variegated *gabi* and aglaonema, the pink flowers of *medenilla*, white flowers of the lotus, and many other interesting plants.

Coming alive

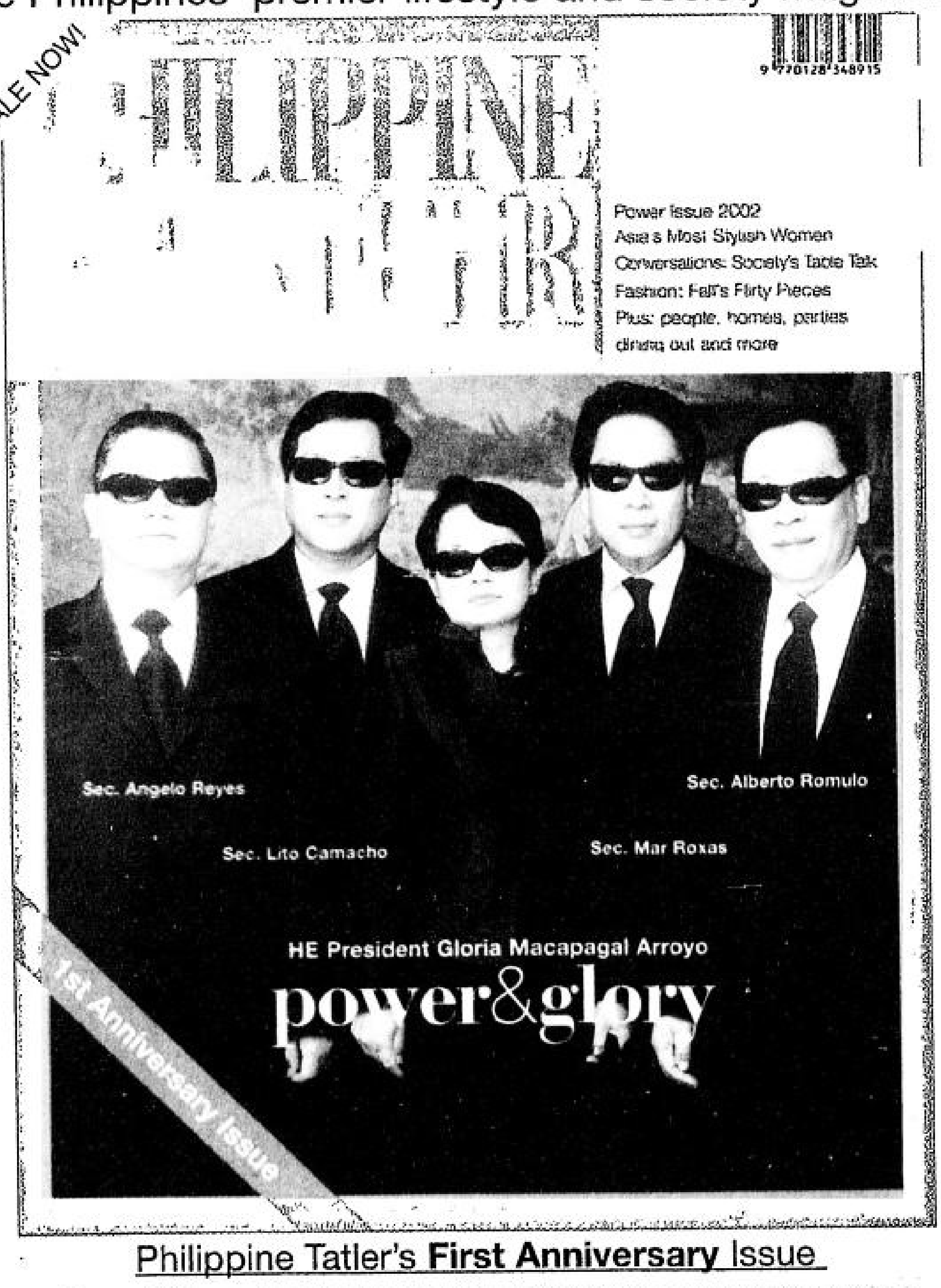
Lorenz explained that the colors of rocks and stones "came alive" in the rain. True enough, we spotted white veins on a black rock from Gabaldon's hillsides. Rocks of all hues that range from beige, to gray and orange became visible at various locations on the lush lawn.

"The night scene is even more interesting," said Lorenz.

It was memorable to us. As we watched the night scene unfold, hundreds of raindrops sparkled on the feathery leaves of the native *tsaang gubat* shrub. And as the garden spotlights around the pond were switched on, the mountain scene came alive with flying insects and forest sounds.

PUTTING/ P.G4

VARIEGATED *aglaonemas* from the forest are quite rare.



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Latest trends in home and garden at trade show

"THE MODERN Home and Garden Asia 2002," a trade show featuring the latest trends in home and garden, will be held Sept. 19-21 at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Pasay City.

Organized by H&G International, a division of Leverage International, the event, the first of its kind in the country, will showcase various products from Europe, the Americas and Asia.

Interior designer Johnny Hubilla, who is designing the show, says the event will include lecture-demonstrations on eco-friendly interior decoration, to be conducted by designers from the Philippine Institute of Interior Designing (PIID) and ornamental plant artists.

K.T. Abaneo of PIID will discuss the "Elements of Interior Designs" at 10 a.m., Sept. 19. At 3 p.m., Serapion S. Metilla will demonstrate how to make a tray landscape and discuss the techniques of interior decorating with plant arts.

Sherbie Co of PIID will talk on "Interior Design Feng Shui" at 10 a.m., Sept. 20. At 3 p.m., Dr. Oding Reyes, past president of the Philippine Bonsai Society, will show how to make basic bonsai culture.

P.J. Nepomuceno, vice president of the Philippine Horticultural Society, will discuss indoor gardening at 10 a.m., Sept. 21. At 3 p.m., Rene Herico of PIID will talk on the different uses of furniture in interior design.

Metilla will present a special garden setting at the lobby entrance. Call tel. 818-6828 or 810-1369.

Meanwhile, "Garden Blessings II: A Plant and Flower Festival" is ongoing until Sept. 24 at the West Wing G/F SM City West, QC.

Organized by Keegan Myers Events and Exhibits, the festival features exotic plants and flowers as well as garden supplies like pots and vases, fertilizers, accessories.

Metilla will showcase a special garden setting. He will also demonstrate basic bonsai culture on Sept. 22. Admission is free.

Call Marilou Cadacio at 633-9662 or 638-9608.

Grand home sale

STA. Lucia East Department Store and Home Gallery's "Grand Home Sale" is ongoing until Oct. 6. Avail of great bargains and discounts on furniture, houseware, home décor and appliances. Enjoy the lowest interest rates and payment scheme offered by Citibank, Diners, Unicard, BPI, RCBC and Visa card. Plus, loads of surprises await shoppers in the "Window of Prizes" promo.

Every P500 worth of home products purchased from Home Gallery and Sta. Lucia East Department Store entitles a customer to bring home a prize from Forty Winks, Nay's Furniture, Sunnex, Ultima, Melawares, Shining Marketing and Home Center.

College student volunteers manage the science clubbing movement

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

BASED on the e-mail we've been receiving lately, volunteers have been instrumental in making many big and small projects/causes work in this country. To introduce some of the organizations and the reasons they need volunteers, we're quoting portions of the e-mail (one at a time).

Gregory Albert Galicinao, public information officer of the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs Inc. (PSYSC), describes his group as a nongovernment, nonprofit organization, the umbrella of all the science clubs in the country. The national office, which, he says, is just an apartment unit, is run by college volunteers, mostly from UP.

According to a finding of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study, Filipino elementary and high school students lag in terms of performance in science and mathematics. The study noted that "the Philippines placed No. 40 out of 41 countries for the science part and ranked 38 for math. This performance is very embarrassing but not unexpected, given the little regard the government gives to science education. Our performance is continuously declining and something has to be done to arrest this alarming problem."

Taking the initiative in solving this problem in their own small way, says Galicinao, are college students. Instead of going to parties and dating, these college students choose to walk the unconventional path.

"PSYSC college volunteers," he continues, "numbering 70, have taken the lead in the science clubbing movement. As of now, we have around 150,000 science club affiliates all over the country. Think of the ratio—70:150,000. In this organization, we take science clubbing seriously. Yes, we have fun in our work, but we believe that each science club has a role in national development."

Here's what the volunteers do: "PSYSC volunteers conceptualize the National Science and Environment Summer Camp for high school students conducted every summer. Around 600 participants attend this annual national event. In the camp, we conduct lectures on science concepts, workshops and field trips (for 600 people) in order to heighten student interest and awareness in science.

"Another corollary activity is the National Children's Science Interactive Workshop (for elementary students), which is similar to the summer camp but patterned to suit the interests of elementary pupils. Around 500 attend this event.

"The tasks of preparing these major activities are very daunting to ordinary college students. Sometimes they have to sacrifice their own studies just to give quality time to their affiliates—all in the name of science clubbing. *Minsan, pinagtatawanan kami, kasi* college *na kami,* yet we engage in activities of kids."

There are other activities—leadership training and career seminars, Collaborative Undertaking to Revive the Environment (Cure), to name a few—"*nakakahilo pero nagagawa sa tulong ng Diyos.*"

PSYSC volunteers believe that science education should not be limited to the four walls of the classroom. That is why they continue to develop activities to complement and supplement that belief.

"The organization is 31 years old," says Galicinao, "and this alone is testimony to the strong hearts of the volunteers who say they may not have saved a life or contributed large amounts to charity, but hope to save a nation from the quagmire that is the sorry state of science education in this country."

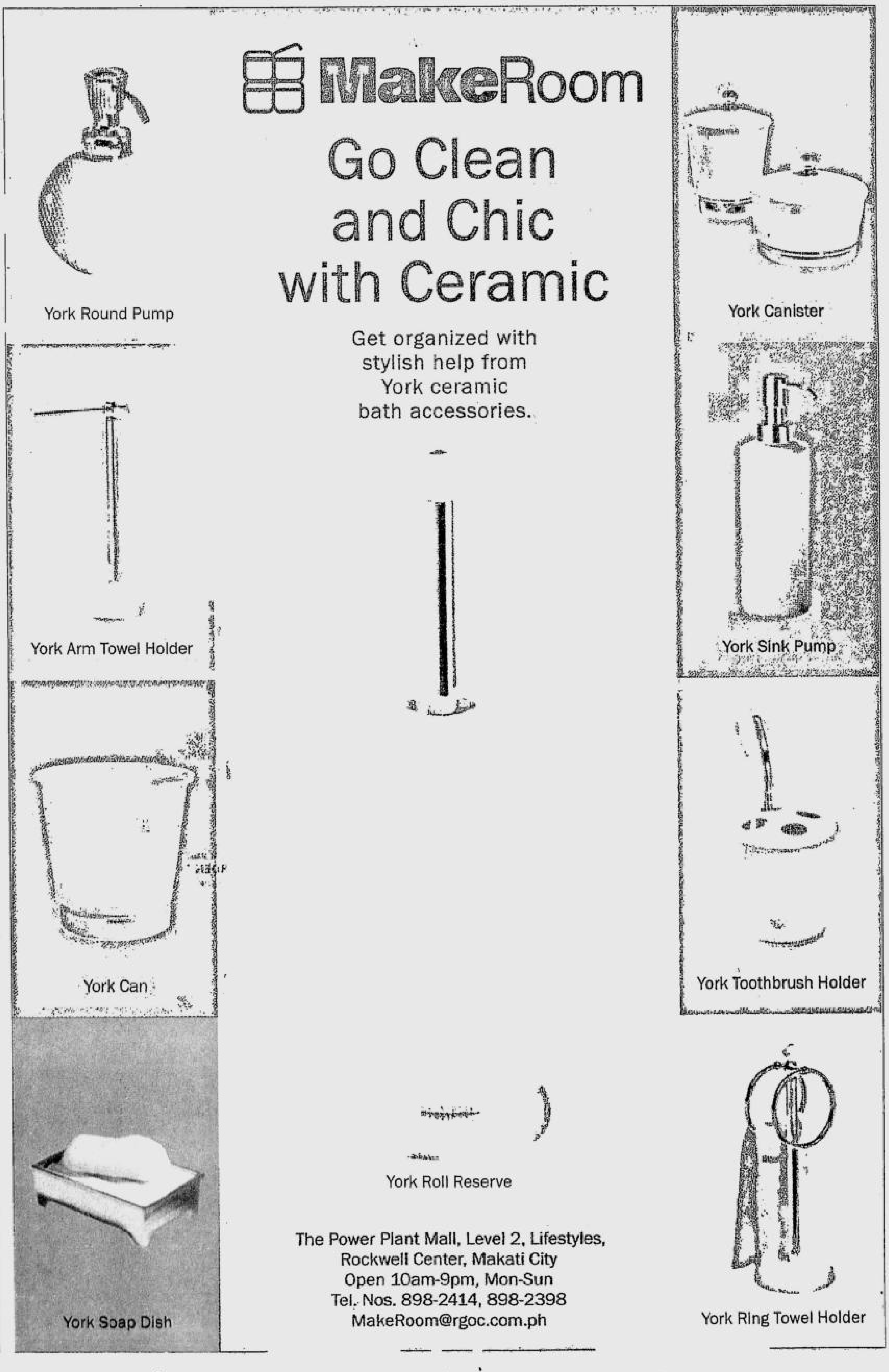
"The PSYSC," he adds, "would like to reach out to all science clubs, enthusiasts, donors and everyone interested, to join the science clubbing movement."

Call Gregory Albert Galicinao at 712-9174 or 920-9561, or visit 317 David's Place, Katipunan Avenue, QC.

Advice via e-mail

LB writes to say she once volunteered for an American website called Teenadvice Online (www.teenadviceonline.org) that handled problems of teenagers from all over the world. Problems of all sorts are received via e-mail and volunteers are given a quota to answer. The work can be draining sometimes, she says, but it made her feel good to be of help.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com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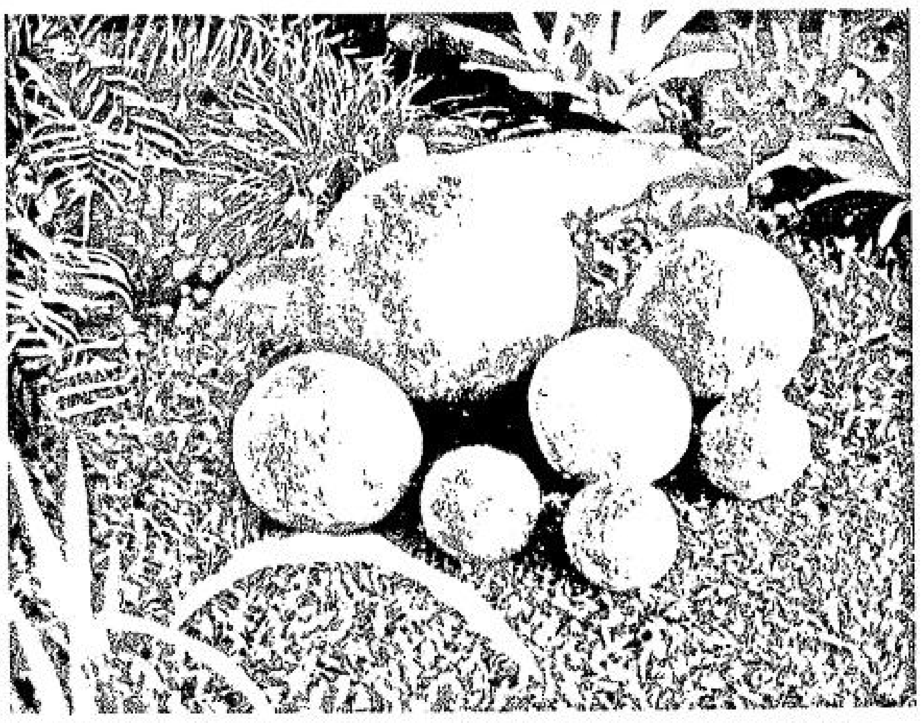
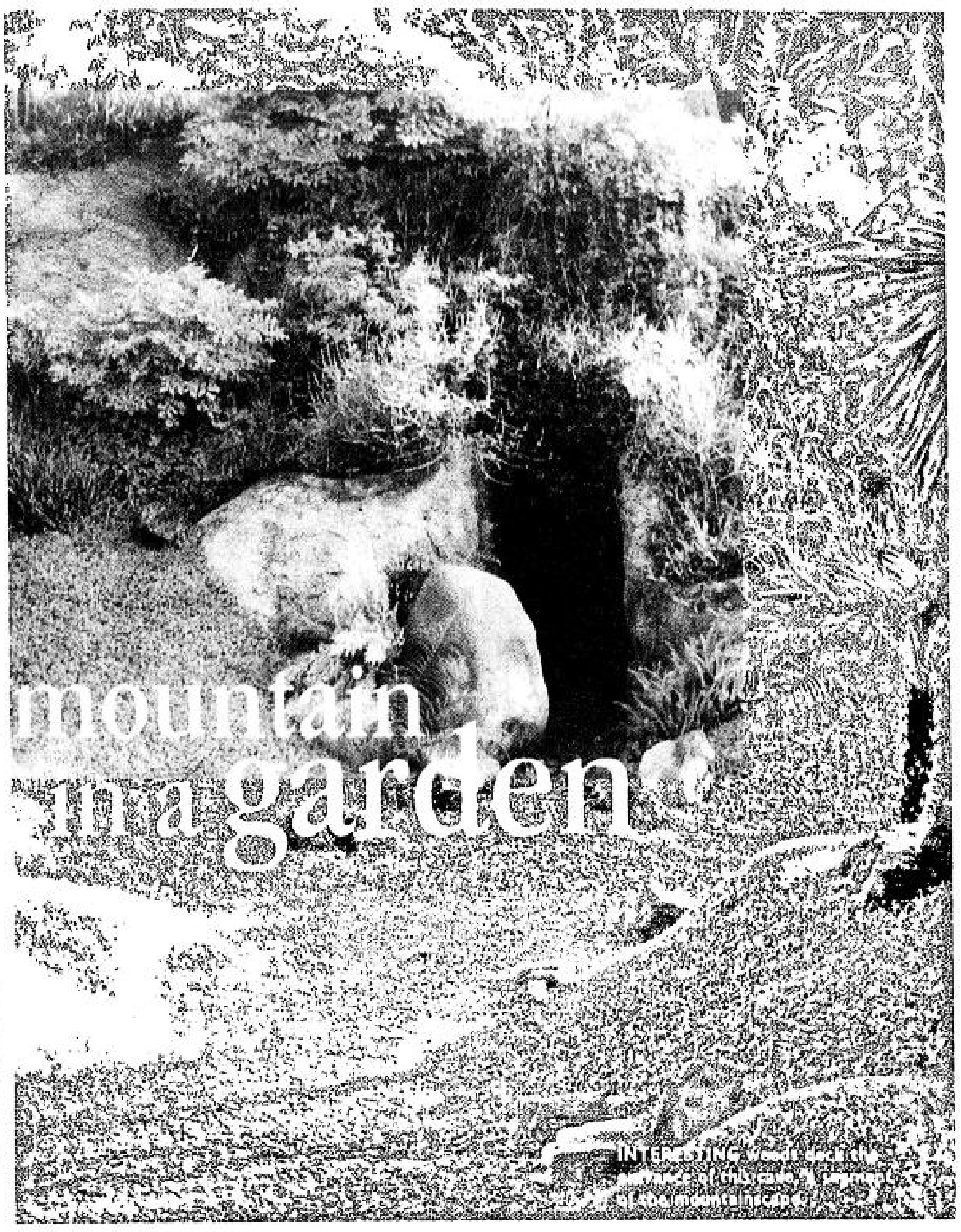
Putting a mountain in a garden



INTERESTING garden accessories are sculptured volcanic rocks from Mt. Pinatubo.

VARIEGATED *gabe* among ferns

RARE native fern from Nueva Vizcaya



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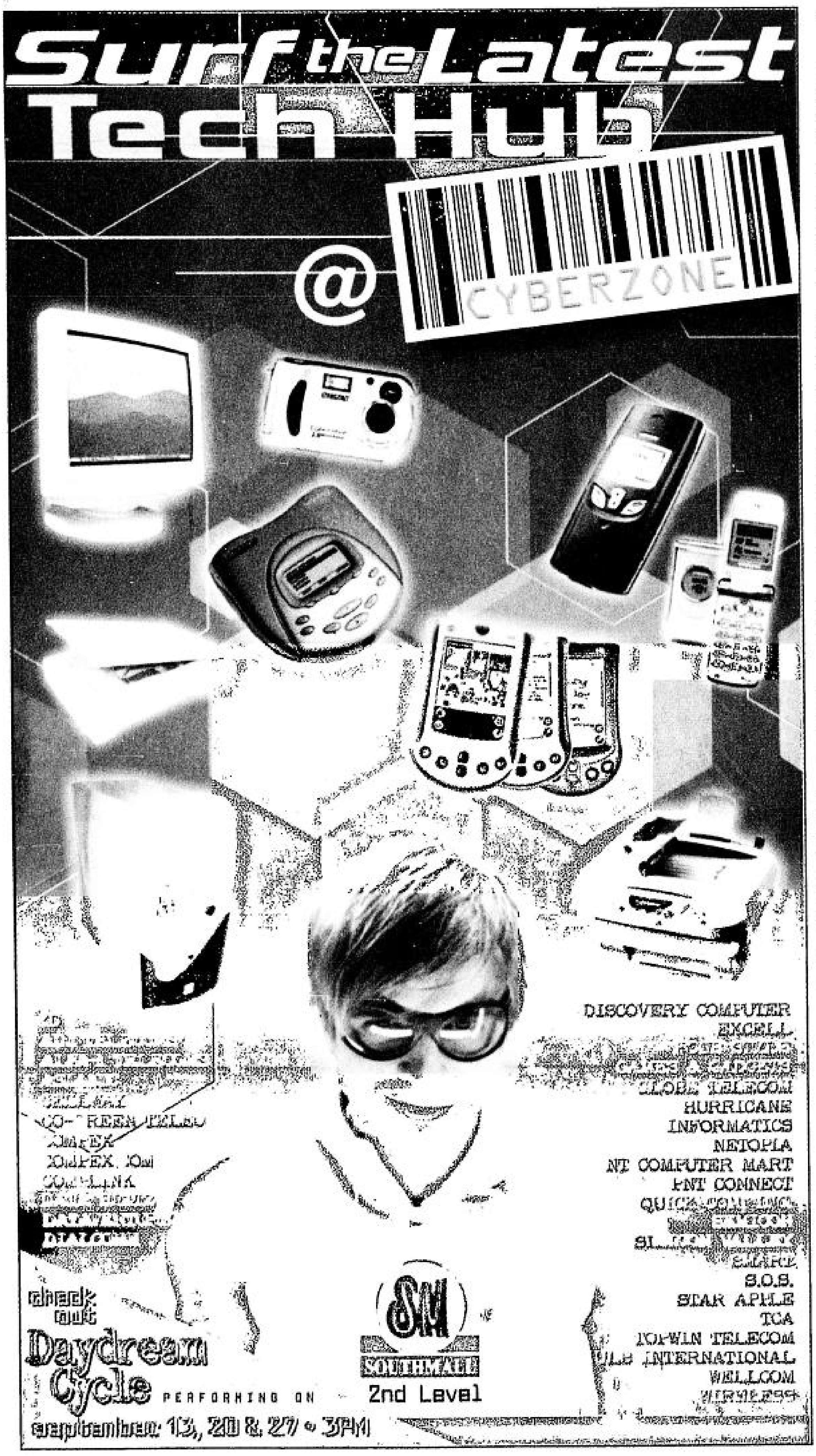

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From page G2

Evidently, native wildlife—or what remains of it in the bustling town of Talavera— found a haven in the mountain garden. Moths and winged insects hovered near the spotlights. Bats and night birds shrieked somewhere, and frogs leaped into the scene.

"*Palakang carag*," Enzo Sr. identified the big frogs to us, as he talked about the disappearing wildlife in the area. "*Kakarong* (native beetle) has disappeared. Native field rats and edible frogs are disappearing. And the native *buli* palm in the garden may not be seen around soon."

Mountainscape for cities

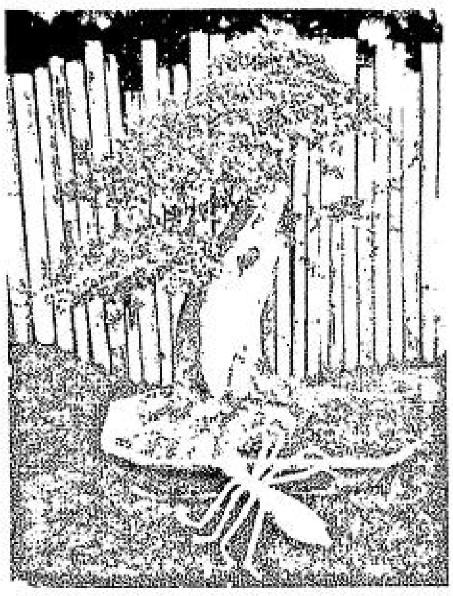
Lorenz was excited about doing mountainscapes for urban residents. He described the scenic spots he saw in his regular forays to the mountains of Nueva Vizcaya. "Landscapers will never run out of ideas if they go into the mountains. *Sa dami ng makikita mo sa taas*, you can write a book on mountainscaping," he said.

Lorenz has made several nature-inspired landscapes featuring waterfalls, but the mountainscape is his latest interest. He has just put the finishing touches on the waterfall garden of a foreigner in Antipolo City, and nature-inspired landscapes in the residences of an executive in Alabang and a foreigner in Nueva Vizcaya.

He added that waterfalls and mountain scenes were ideal for wallscapes, even in small city gardens. These could be created to hide eyesores and block out noise.

Another advantage of waterfall and mountain landscape was their cooling effect. "These are not only cool to the eyes, but they have been proven to lower the surrounding temperature and to clean the air in the environment," Lorenz concluded.

For more information on mountain and waterfall landscapes, call Lorenz Inos Jr. at (0919) 200-1832 or (0918) 510-3412, or write to Nueva Ecija Tropical Garden, MV Gallego Compound, Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City.



DWARFED *callos* tree from the bonsai collection of Inos

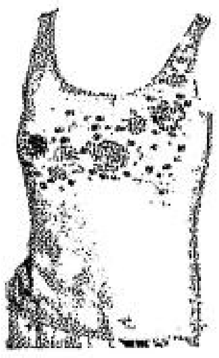
GOLDEN Ficus bonsai

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Trend Pointing LIFESTYLE

Season of indulgence

Story on page H2



Tank it to the top

Story on page H3

Fall of the fashion empires

Story on page H4

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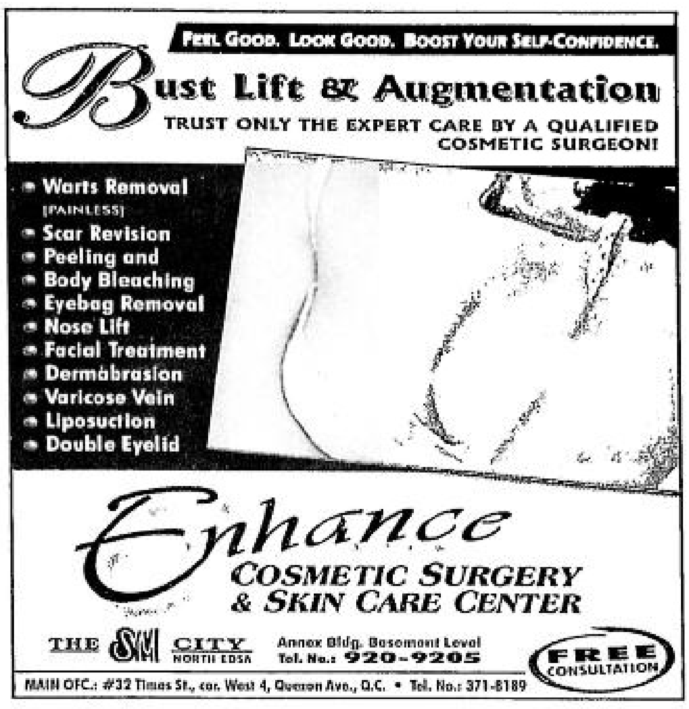

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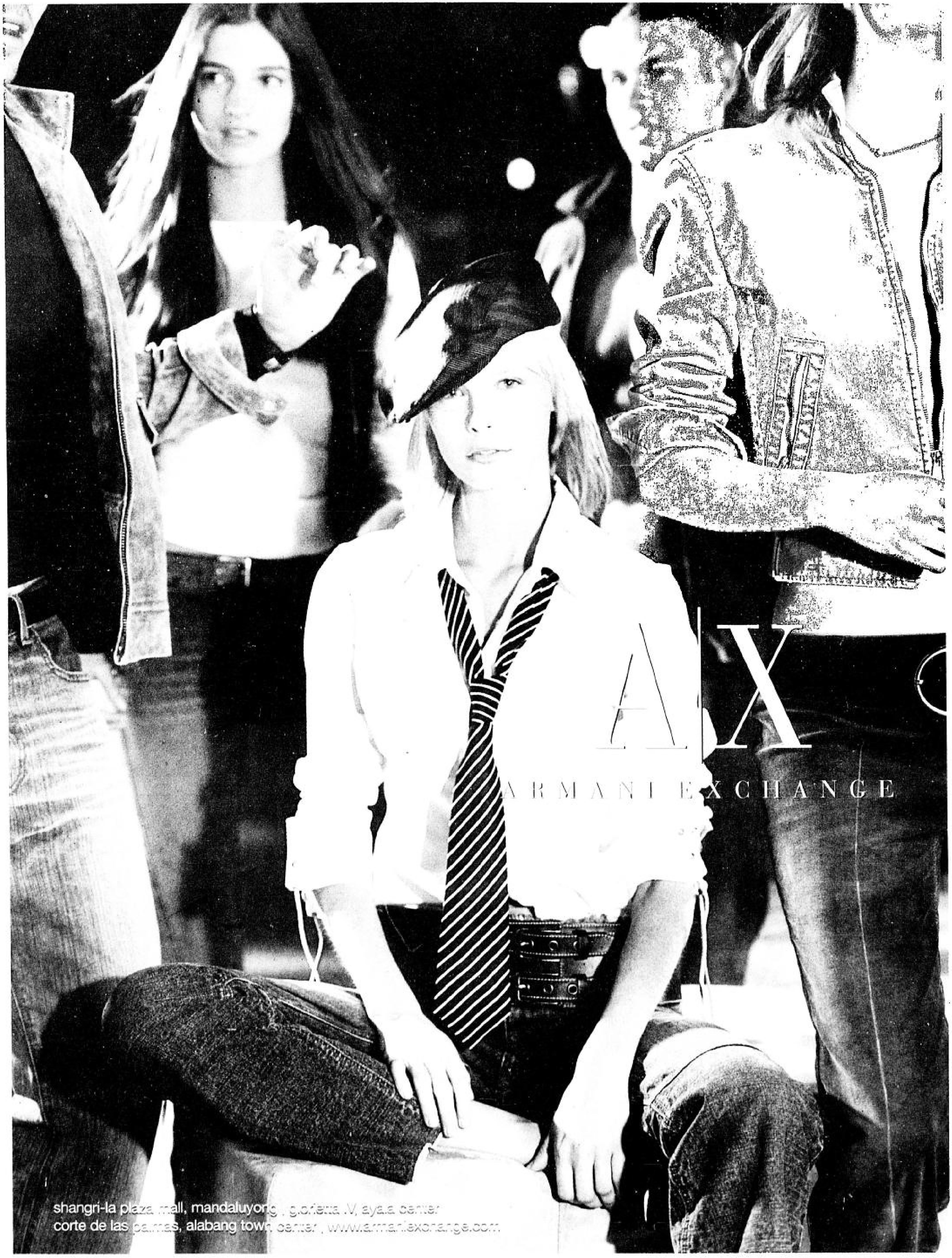

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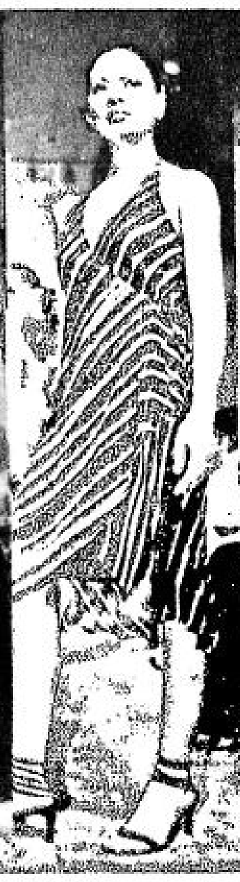
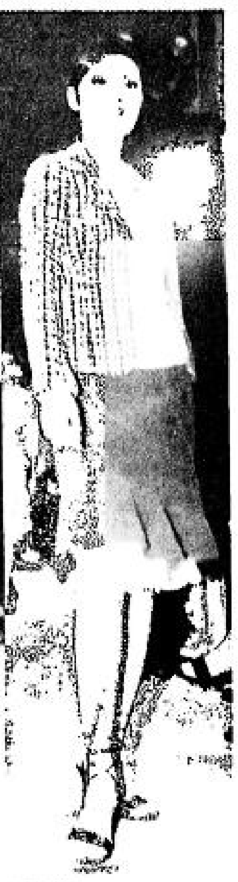
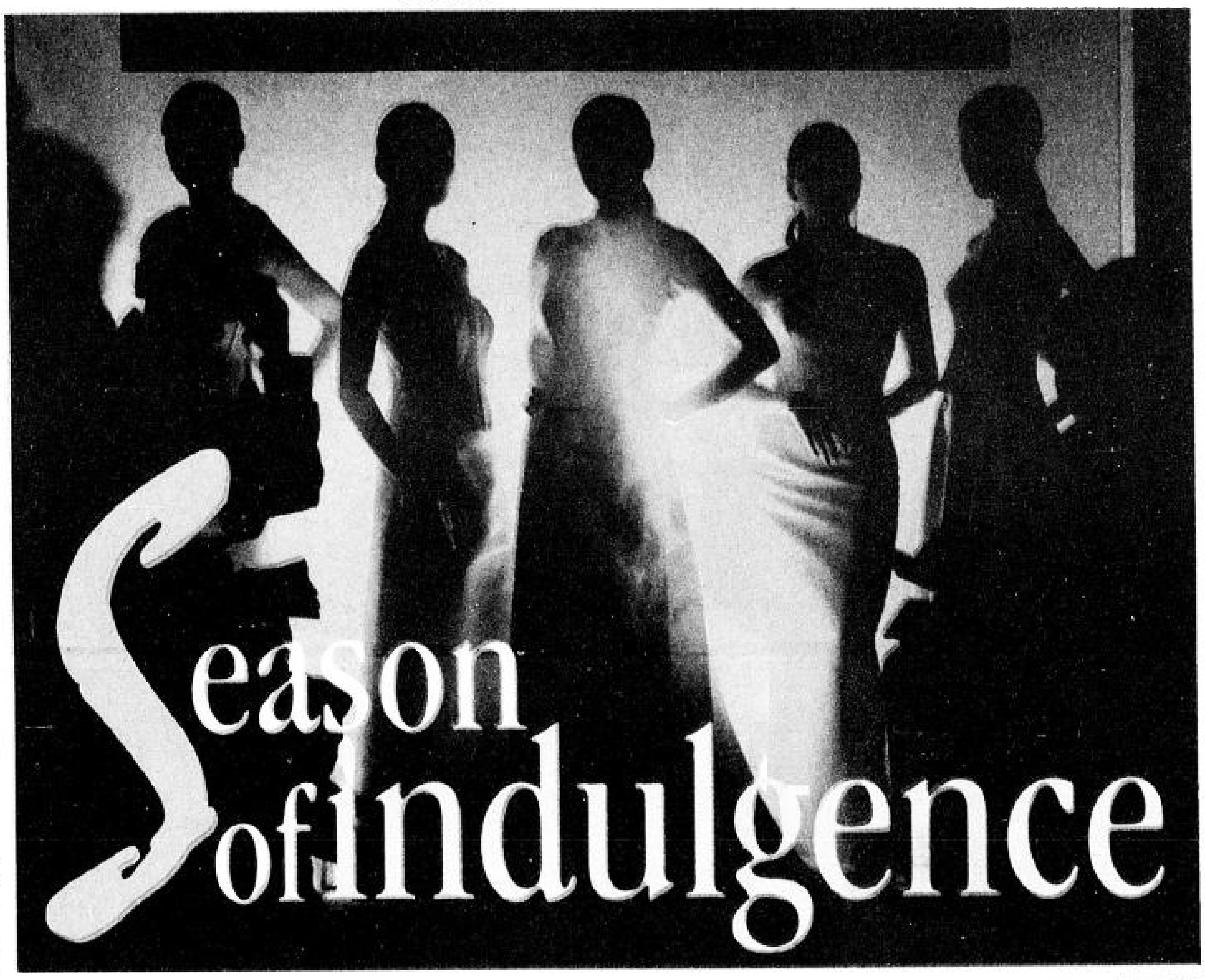

BCBG Max Azria

ESCADA


DKNY

AMICHI



Season of Indulgence

This fall, it is indulgence through and through—if you can afford it

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Mike Alquinto

IT CAN only be called sensible indulgence.

When 21 luxury labels show off their fall collections and come up with a splendid mix of functional classics with delightful new spins, how can any man or woman—*with a fat pocketbook*—resist?

In a show mounted by The Peninsula Manila and Ayala Malls last week, Escada debuted here ultra-feminine items for fall. With a concept for prêt-à-porter that seems to mimic haute couture (both in look and price tag), there were bold beadings and embroidery on leisurewear and sexy suits for working women.

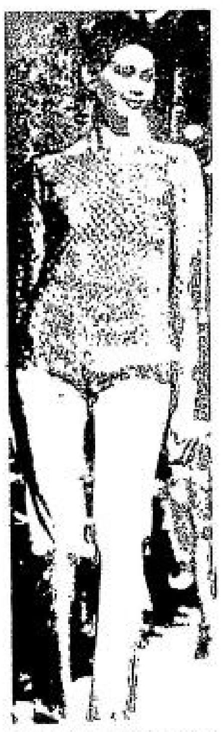
Owing to its young creative director's expertise in skins and knits, Madrid-based label Loewe showed an impressive collection of luscious knits and luxurious leather pieces. Meanwhile, it was sexy, sexy, sexy for BCBG Max Azria with crinkled gauze and chiffons with asymmetric neck- and hemlines.

Donna Karan's secondary label, DKNY, was a showcase of snappy pieces that are both wearable and figure-flattering. There were lots of ruchings, ruffles and laces, all in muted colors of navys, browns, grays and whites. Preppy chic was defined in an eclectic mix of a monogrammed sweater, a man's shirt and a ruffled skirt. Her men's sportswear was easy and straightforward with sleek pea coats and sweaters.

Episode came up with chic, feminine pieces mostly in blacks, while Christian Lacroix chose bohemian femininity in reds and tans, and lots of printed fabrics, lace and organza. Salvatore Ferragamo was classic elegance with sumptuous silk scarves worn as accent pieces or stylized tops, and utilitarian sports and corporate wear both for men and women. European label Amichi, meanwhile, came up with easy and more affordable pieces that will take the working woman from the boardroom to the club.

Reliable as always, Anne Klein paid homage to the working woman who wants to look good. The label stuck to the philosophy of whipping up clothes that are fashionably well-made and smart. The lines were clean, fitted but not skin-tight, and tastefully sexy. Electric pleating also made a comeback in some pieces.

JEWELMER


CHRISTIAN Lacroix

BVLGARI

Men, too

Menswear was suave and slick with traditional silhouettes but with twists here and there. Ermenegildo Zegna's look was classically polished while its sportswear line, Zegna Sport, showed trousers in the softest of fabrics and stunning parkas. It was pulled-together urban confidence for Kenneth Cole, both for sports and business wear. Boss Hugo Boss came up with suits in body-hugging stretch fabrics with metallic sheen. Façonnable and Dunhill were street hip with slimmer pants that taper to the hem.

In keeping with the season, the collections' colors were generally muted—blacks, browns, grays, navys—allowing some shots of color here and there, except for local label Wink Rhett Eala where bright colors were the order of the day: fuchsia, green, orange. With a local market that is seemingly insatiable of pieces that "work," Eala reinterpreted the poncho and reintroduced the obi sash in a number of pieces. A two-piece black eveningwear was a witty marriage between chiffon and leather. His youthful bends were distressed denims funkied up with beadings, and oversized cotton tops and leather cuffs for men.

For leather goods brands Coach, Bally and Fendi, it was an exquisite showcase of bags and accessories that adhered to functional classic lines while pleasing diehard logophiles: embossed or on-fabric, in suede, calfskin, canvas, nylon. Practical but fashionable, these are items where, to paraphrase Carrie Bradshaw, no woman would mind being a "bag lady." And with equally impressive men's lines, no gentleman would say no to toting a bag either.

Bvlgari and Jewelmer fittingly capped the evening of gratification with opulently exquisite jewelry pieces that whetted the appetite of the men and women of leisure.

BALLY

WINK Rhett Eala

ERMENEGILDO Zegna

DUNHILL

KENNETH Cole

SALVATORE Ferragamo

BOSS Hugo Boss

DKNY

Tank it to the top

Text by Camille Cruz-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

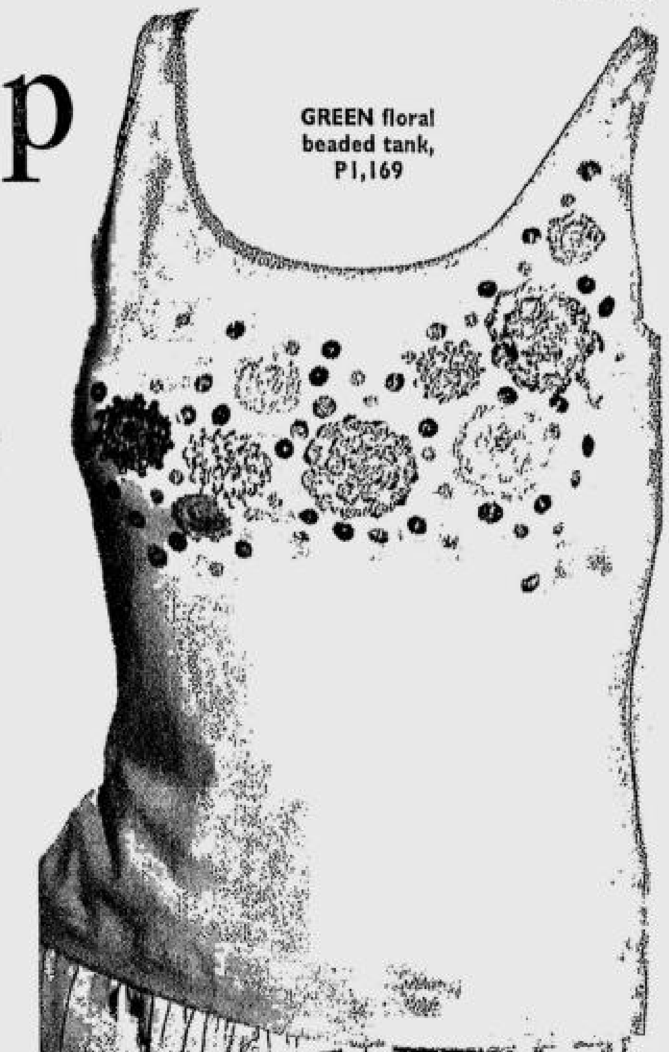
THE TANK top has become a collectible. Whether you're in the park or in a favorite restaurant on late nights out, there is something timeless about a basic tank top. It goes with your favorite pair of shorts, jeans, skirt or pants.

Details can enliven a tank top. A string of pearls cascading down the neckline with a ribbon accent on the shoulder, smocking with minimal beads and sequins, fabric pins or ribbons—the possibilities are endless.

ALL ITEMS FROM SALABIANCA, GREENBELT 3, AYALA CENTER, MAKATI

PINK deep-cut, U-neck tank with smocking and beaded accents, P1,479

BLACK round-neck tank with hot pink beaded accents, P1,169



GREEN floral beaded tank, P1,169

OFF-WHITE tank top with beads and sequins, P1,719

It has become a fashion staple. The trick is to provide variety by detailing

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2500, Series of 2002

Fall of the fashion empires

IN DKNY's Fall 2002 collection, the sensibility of the New York streets inspires the eclectic twist of iconic classics. Traditional skirts are deconstructed. Shots of red and pale pink soften a palette of mixed grays. Ruching, lace insets, ties and tulle add dimension on blouses, tops and skirts. Bottoms like flannel trouser meets skinny corduroys.

Outerwear moves with versatility from the tailored overcoat and pea jacket to fur-lined parka and the chunky sweater coat. Accessories complete the look: belts, chiffon petticoats and shoes.

Menswear echoes the feel of the season. The traditional pinstripe suit is washed for a modern, shrunken fit. Angled seams and leather trims modernize the classic tweed jacket. Bold graphic stripes brighten sweaters. Chunky zippers embellish leather motorcycle pants.

DKNY is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. and is available at Power Plant Mall, 158 Designers Boulevard, Alabang Town Center and Rustan's Makati.

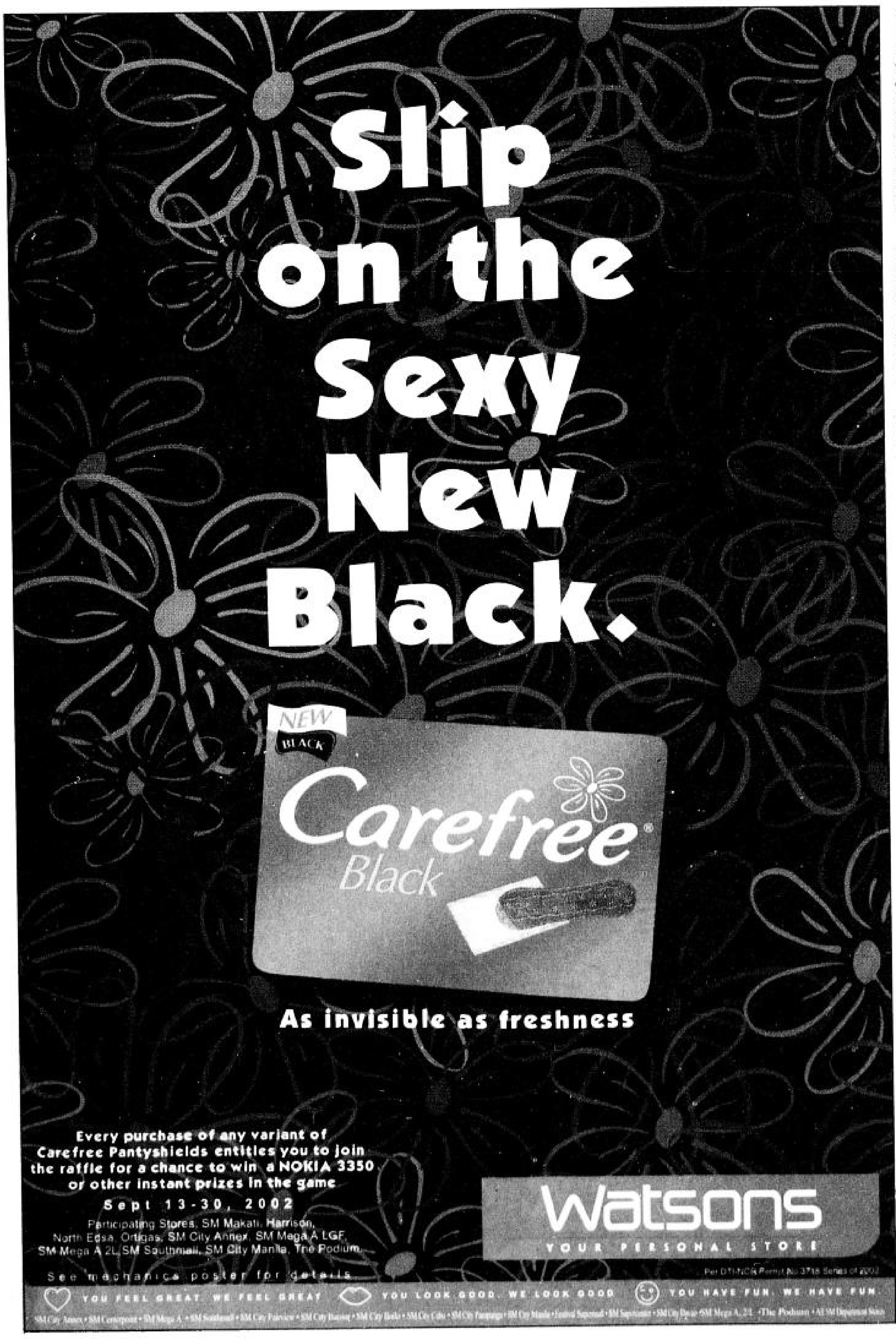
IN THE BALLY Fall-Winter 2002 Women's Collection, structured jackets are paired with either slightly A-line skirts or wide trousers. Materials include double-stretch wool and reversible nappa in Nomad, Glow and Fjord Blue. Accessories include a platform sandal worn with cashmere-ribbed leggings, an oversized travel bag and Trilby hats.

The Men's Collection features elements of a nomadic life mixed with clean, structured silhouettes. Layers of jersey and thick knits are worn under strong, trim jackets in double-faced cotton or double-faced nappa.

The men's shoe and accessory collections feature hard, double-welted riding boots and structured messenger bags, or trekking boots and suede flat pouch bags worn as layered pieces of clothing.

Bally is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc., with shops located at the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Glorietta 4, Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Tower and Rustan's Harrison Plaza.

Traditional skirts are deconstructed, while shots of red and pink soften a palette of grays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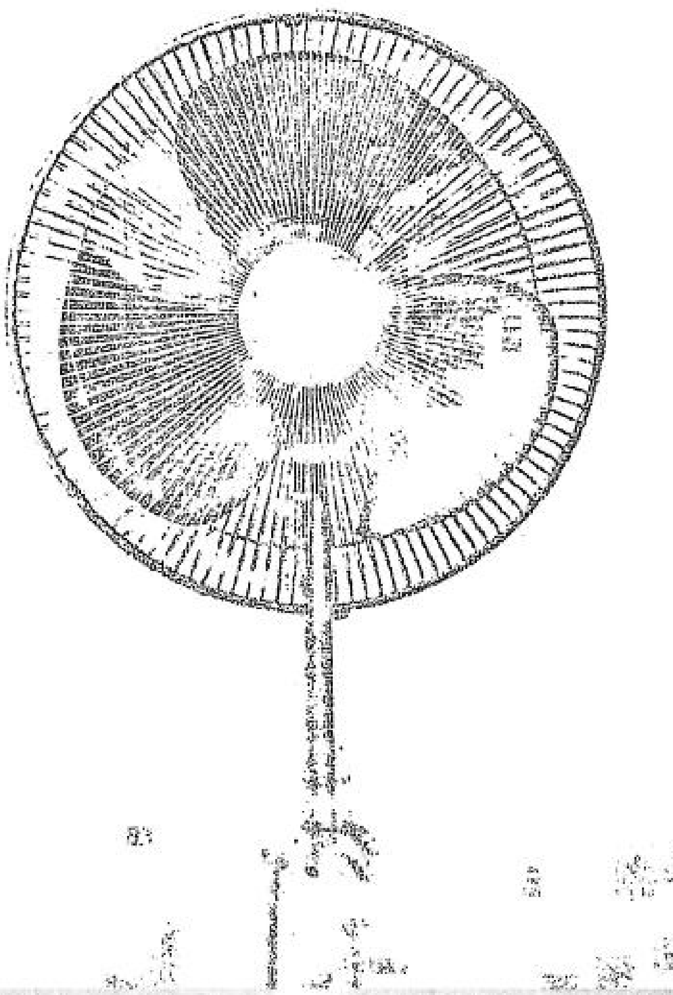

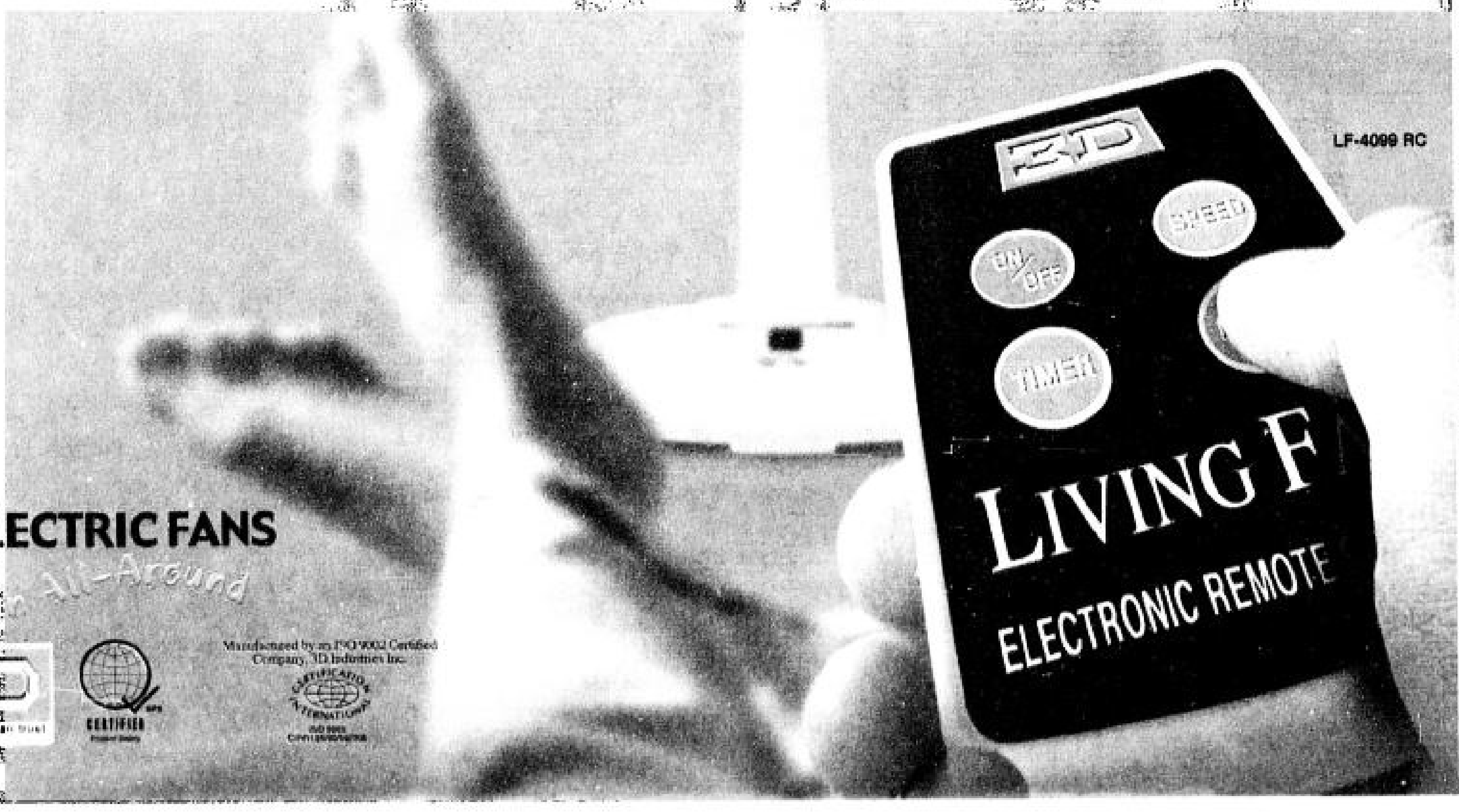

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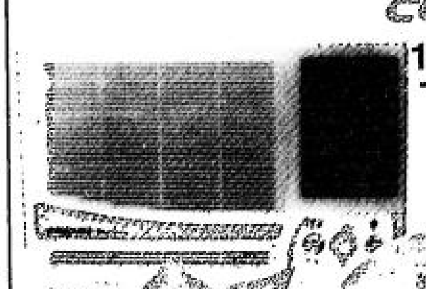

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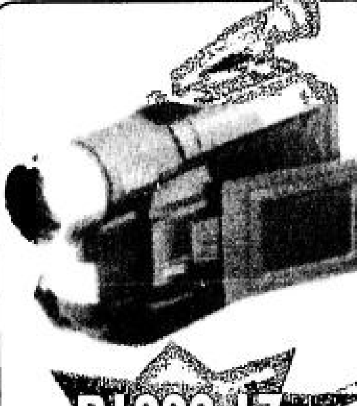

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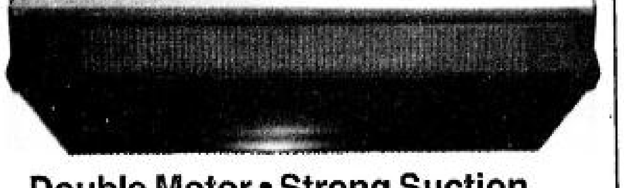

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CASH PRICE: P 29,990
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AV-25L31
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CASH PRICE: P 27,990
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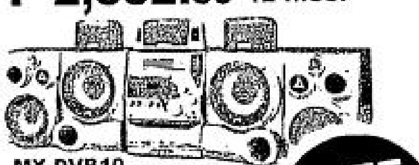

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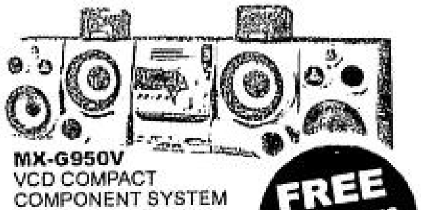

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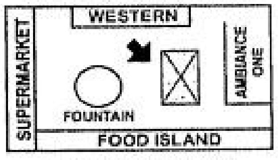

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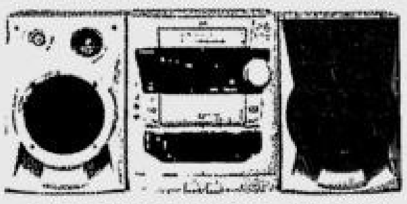

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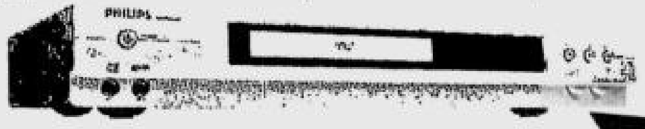

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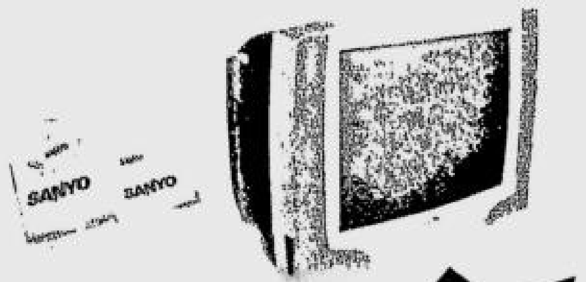

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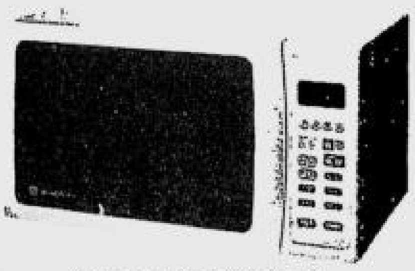

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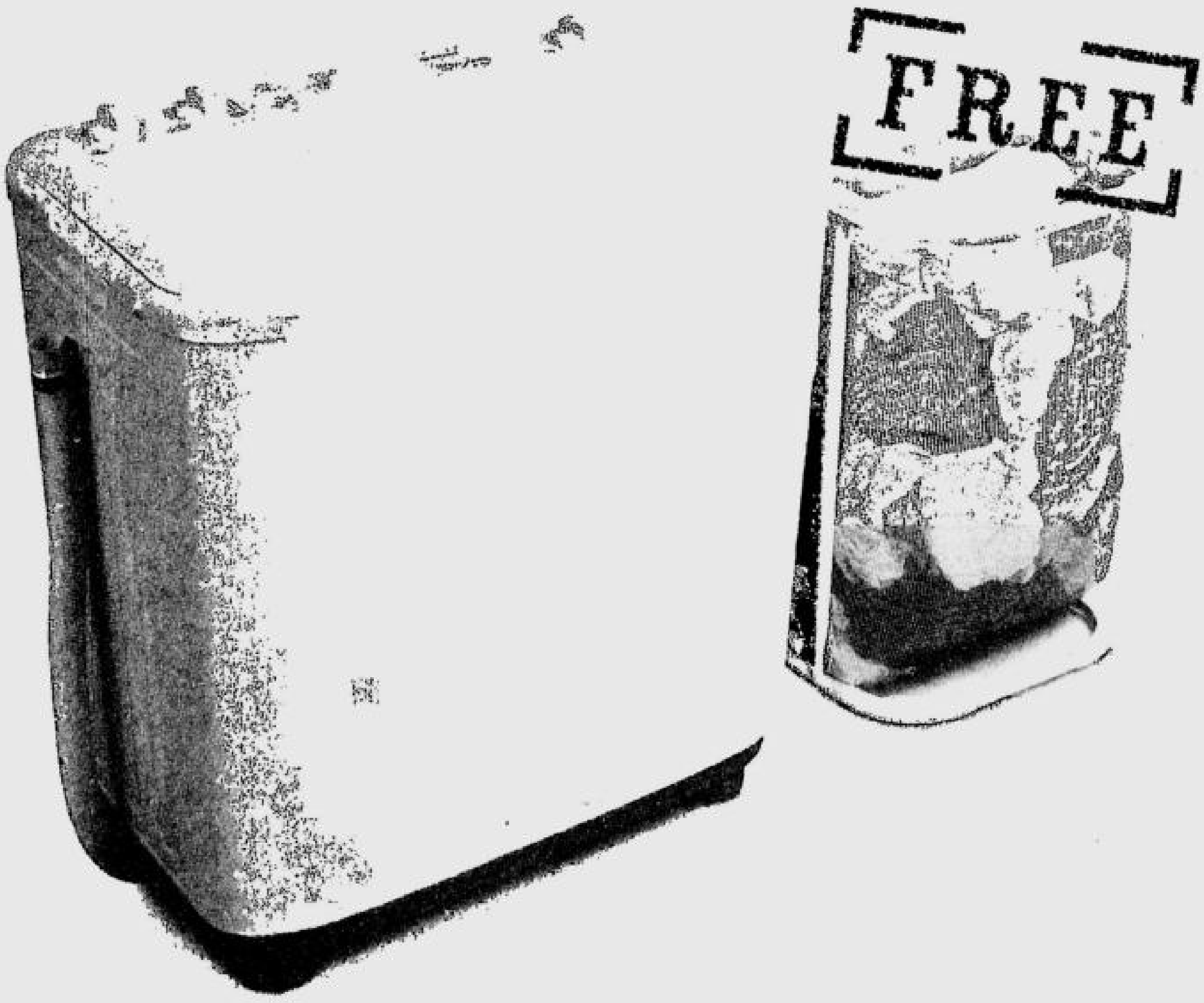

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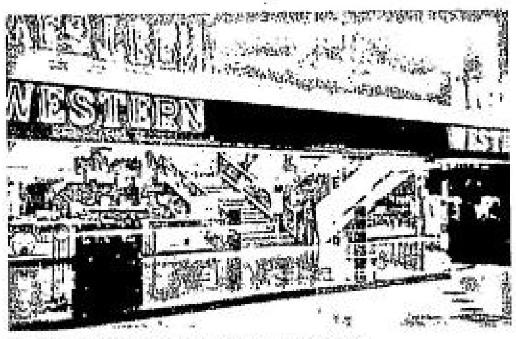

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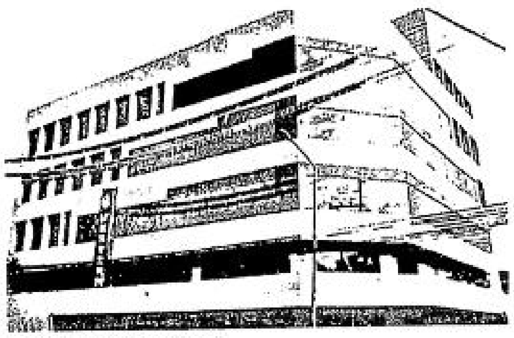

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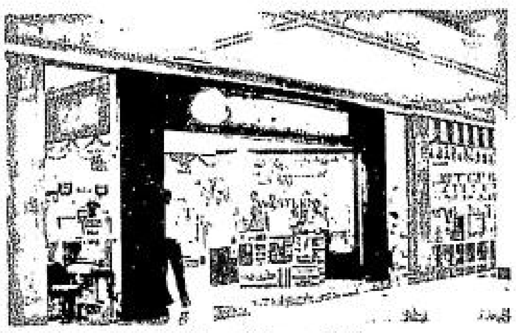

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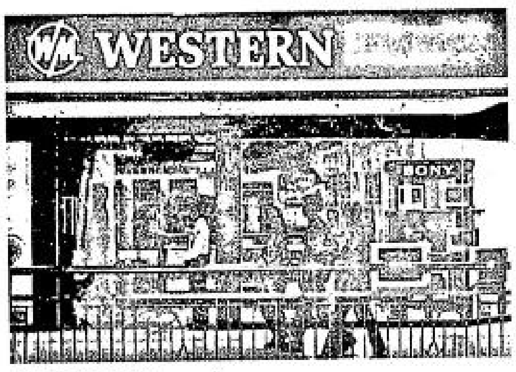

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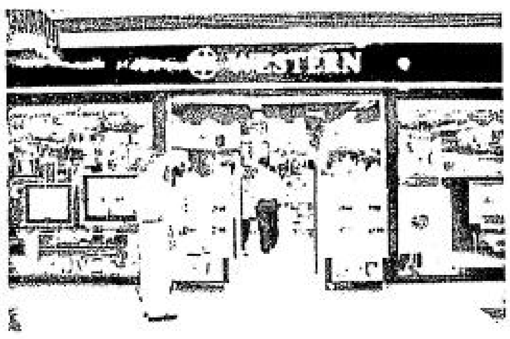

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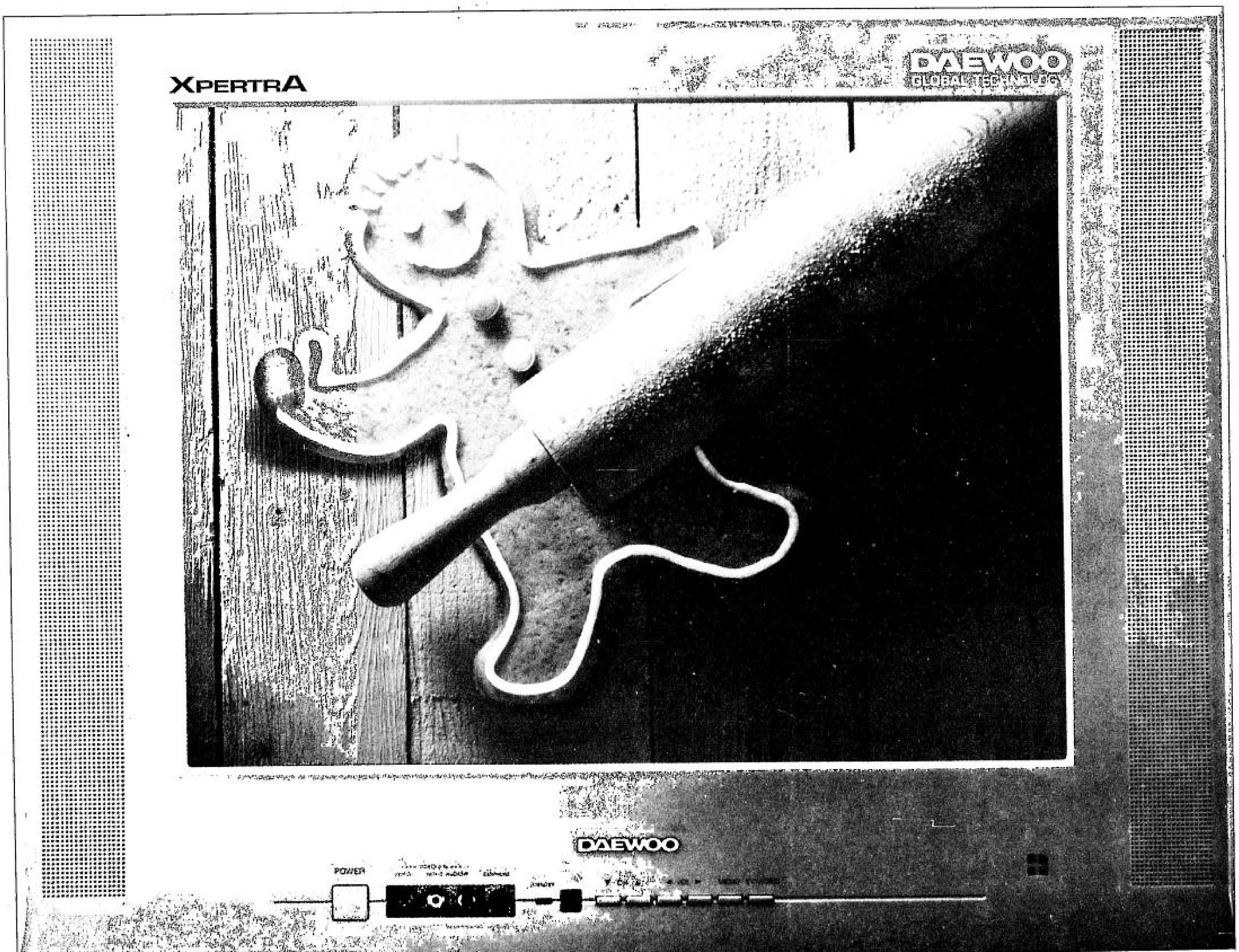

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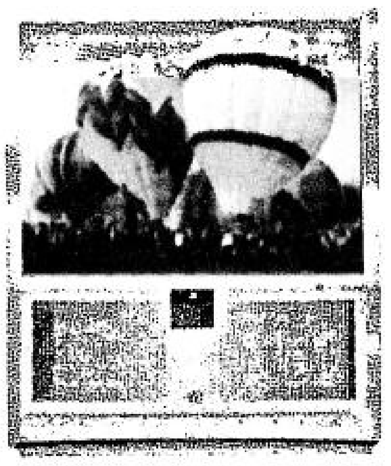

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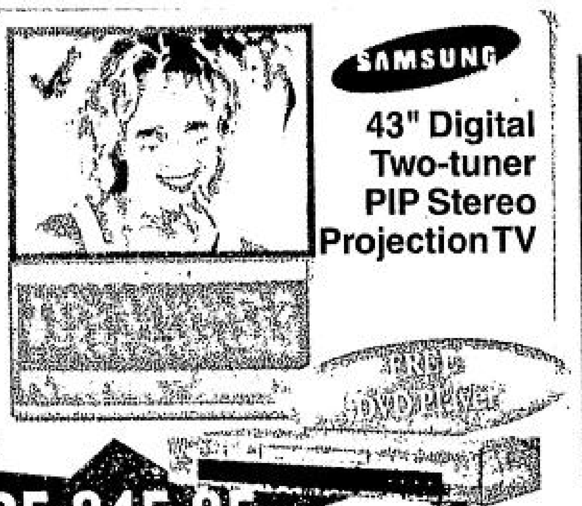

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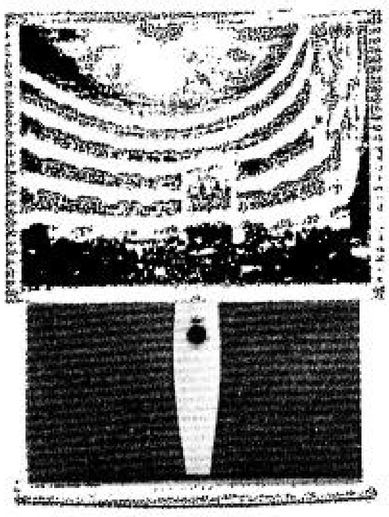

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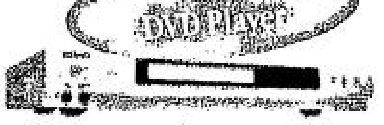

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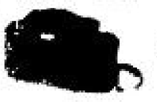

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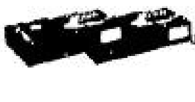

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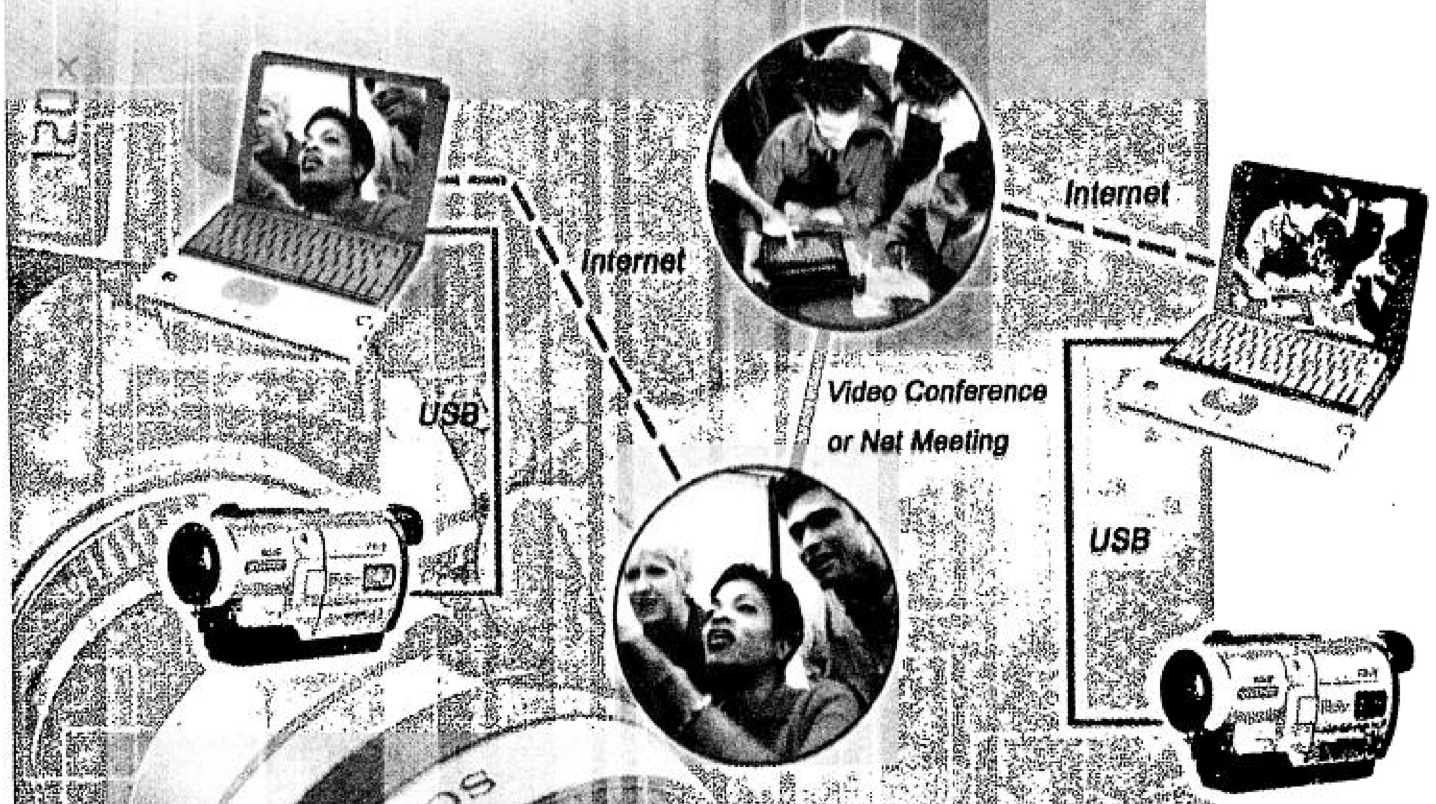

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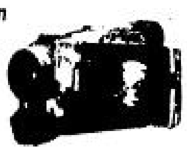

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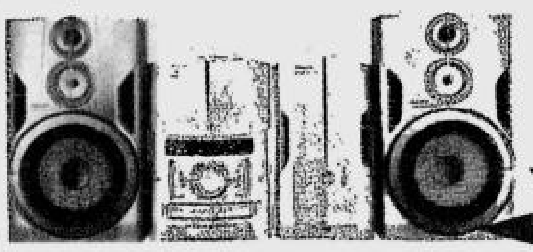

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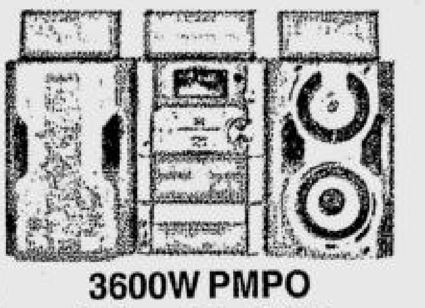

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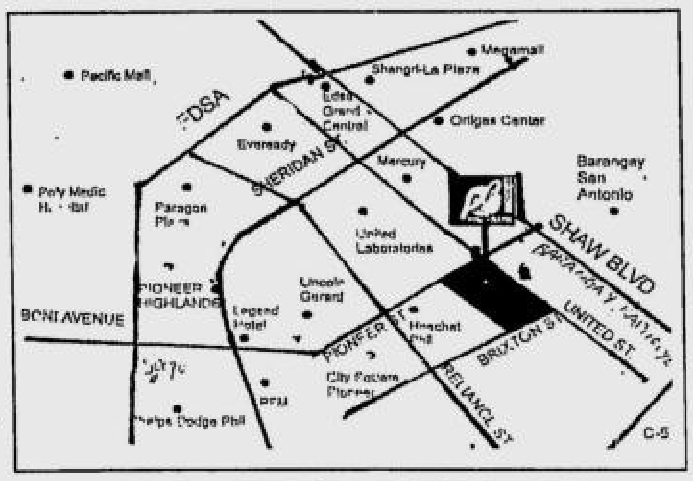

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Ambiance One anniversary sale offering

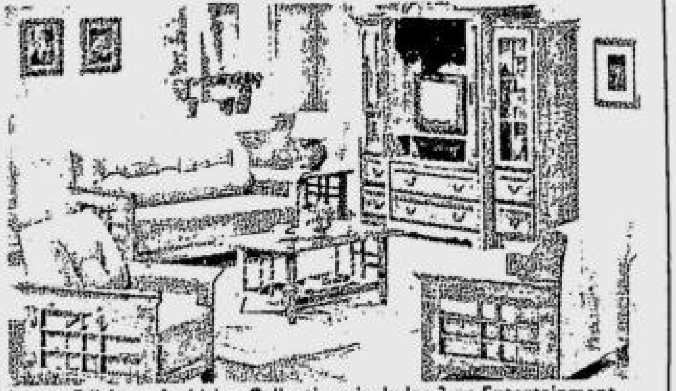
BOUND by our mission/vision of bringing in stylish furniture at the best price, Ambiance One keeps on introducing new designs of elegant furniture classics. Customers continuously grow as they come to realize that Ambiance One is true to its promise of offering the lowest price in the market.

Now, as Ambiance One celebrates its anniversary, we are giving big discounts on selected furniture as a way of showing gratitude to our customers. Surely this will entice walk-in customers to grab the opportunity of buying their dream furniture at a much lower price. And on top of the big discount the customers will be getting, Ambiance One will be giving lots of premiums and giveaways on more purchases. So take advantage of this offer. Hurry now and shop for your furniture needs at any Ambiance One branches.

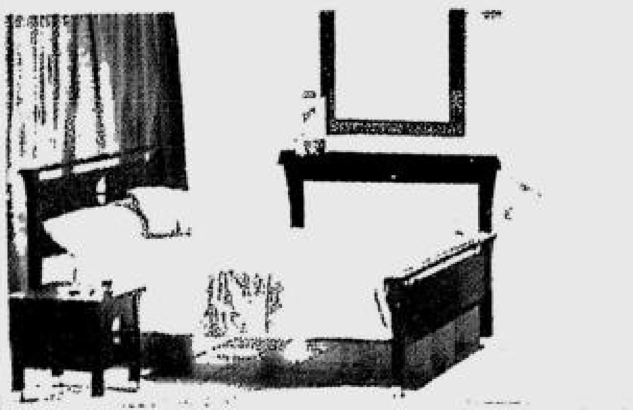
In celebration of Ambiance One Anniversary, we have scheduled activities as a way of reaching out to our valued customers: Storewide Anniversary Sale – Sept. 13 to Oct. 31; Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Furniture Exhibit (Basement Level) Sept. 13 to Oct. 17; Corinthian Garden Furniture Exhibit – Oct. 5 and 6 (Corinthian Garden Clubhouse) Ever Gotesco Commonwealth Furniture Exhibit – Oct. 23 to Dec. 22 (Basement Level, Ever Gotesco Commonwealth) and 29th BPI Installment Madness Exhibit, Oct 9 to 27, Glorietta, Makati.

New designs of Ambiance One Furniture Collections will be the highlight of the exhibits and customers can avail them at discounted price.

It is Ambiance One 5th Anniversary and we are inviting everyone to share with our success of giving new ambiance to each and everyone's home with every new furniture collection bought from Ambiance One.



Latest Edition - Ambition Collections includes 3 pc Entertainment Center and Sofa Set with a 30 seater and (2) armchairs with a Center Table and a Side Table in Oak or Walnut finish now available at all Ambiance One branches



Latest Edition - Qing Bedroom Series includes Queen size bed and bedside table and a Console table and mirror in Dark Veneer finish of solid wood now availalble at all Ambiance One branches

Latest Edition - Roma Sofa bed in a PVC leather upholstery. Available in black, blue, brown, burgundy beige, and green colors. Sofa by day, bed by night now available at all Ambiance One branches

The truth behind rust-free washing machines

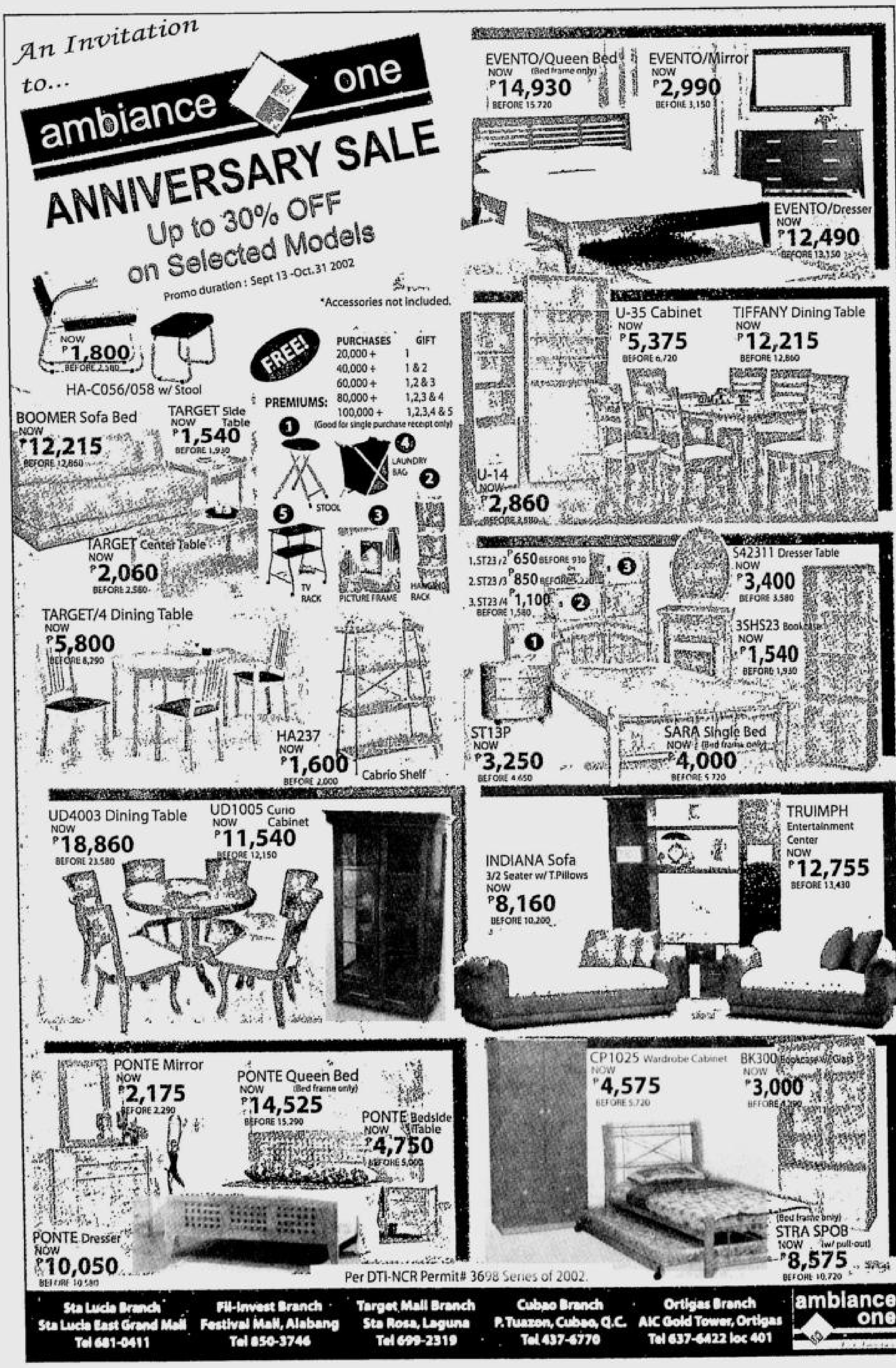
ALMOST all-washing machine manufacturers nowadays claim that their products are 100 percent rust-free. If you're tired of hand washing your laundry and are shopping for a new washing machine, it pays to be aware of what the manufacturer means when it makes the attractive claim.

Rust-free but with a powdered-coated metal body-Essentially, this type of washing machine can claim that it is rust-free in the same way that automobile can say will never rust. Its body is made of galvanized steel that has been painted and treated to keep out the elements that cause rust. Of course, without the proper attention and care, and if subjected to normal everyday conditions, rust will still inevitably attack the underlying steel. In a couple of years, you may end up with a steel skeleton barely supporting the unit's motor especially if you are not careful and paranoid about keeping the appliance dry (quite impossible). To be more accurate, these type of units should claim that they are rust-resistant instead of rust free.

Rust-free with a plastic base but with a metal body - These types of washing machines harp on the truth that their base is made of plastic, but what happens to the ordinary metal body? The only part that's rust free in this type of appliance is the base hence, the more appropriate claim should be 20 percent rust-free and 80 percent rust-resistant.

Rust-free plastic body but single walled - These units definitely will never rust because it is obviously impossible for plastic to rust. However, beware of single-walled washing machines that are no different from the cheap dipper form, (or in common language, the "*tabo*" which is used for bathing). Moreover, some of them are even made of hard plastic, which is very prone to breakage at the slightest pressure or impact.

100 percent. Rust-free polypropylene body – essentially, this type of washing machine can rightfully claim to be 100 percent rust-free. The material used for the body is synthetic, non-metal resin that's guaranteed against rust and corrosion—forever. Furthermore, it is reinforced via the double walling of polypropylene material thereby making it malleable and durable. Korean appliance leader, Daewoo Electronics, first introduced the double-walled polypropylene body for the washing machine in 1994. Since then, all other washing machine brands have followed the trend and have tried to copy its technology. Daewoo manufactures twin-tub Asian washing machines with superior washing action and a built-in spin-dryer for faster drying of clothes. Very soon, it will introduce the much awaited sing-tub washer, the choice of the budget-conscious. For more information on Daewoo products contact 643-3456 local 206 to 207.



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*Accessories not included.

HA-C056/058 w/ Stool NOW ₱1,800 BEFORE 2,580
BOOMER Sofa Bed NOW ₱12,215 BEFORE 12,860
TARGET Side Table NOW ₱1,540 BEFORE 1,930
TARGET Center Table NOW ₱2,060 BEFORE 2,580
TARGET/4 Dining Table NOW ₱5,800 BEFORE 8,290
HA237 NOW ₱1,600 BEFORE 2,000 Cabrio Shelf

FREE!
PREMIUMS:

PURCHASES	GIFT
20,000 +	1
40,000 +	1 & 2
60,000 +	1,2 & 3
80,000 +	1,2,3 & 4
100,000 +	1,2,3,4 & 5

(Good for single purchase receipt only)
① STOOL ② HANGING RACK ③ PICTURE FRAME ④ LAUNDRY BAG ⑤ TV RACK

EVENTO/Queen Bed NOW (Bed frame only) ₱14,930 BEFORE 15,720
EVENTO/Mirror NOW ₱2,990 BEFORE 3,150
EVENTO/Dresser NOW ₱12,490 BEFORE 13,150
U-35 Cabinet NOW ₱5,375 BEFORE 6,720
TIFFANY Dining Table NOW ₱12,215 BEFORE 12,860
U-14 NOW ₱2,860 BEFORE 3,880
1. ST23/2 ₱650 BEFORE 930
2. ST23/3 ₱850 BEFORE [illegible]
3. ST23/4 ₱1,100 BEFORE 1,580
S42311 Dresser Table NOW ₱3,400 BEFORE 3,580
3SHS23 Bookcase NOW ₱1,540 BEFORE 1,930
ST13P NOW ₱3,250 BEFORE 4,650
SARA Single Bed NOW (Bed frame only) ₱4,000 BEFORE 5,720
UD4003 Dining Table NOW ₱18,860 BEFORE 23,580
UD1005 Curio Cabinet NOW ₱11,540 BEFORE 12,150
INDIANA Sofa 3/2 Seater w/ T.Pillows NOW ₱8,160 BEFORE 10,200
TRUIMPH Entertainment Center NOW ₱12,755 BEFORE 13,430
PONTE Mirror NOW ₱2,175 BEFORE 2,290
PONTE Queen Bed NOW (Bed frame only) ₱14,525 BEFORE 15,290
PONTE Bedside Table NOW ₱4,750 BEFORE 5,000
PONTE Dresser NOW ₱10,050 BEFORE 10,580
CP1025 Wardrobe Cabinet NOW ₱4,575 BEFORE 5,720
BK300 Bookcase w/ Glass NOW ₱3,000 BEFORE [illegible]
STRA SPOB (Bed frame only) NOW (w/ pull-out) ₱8,575 BEFORE 10,720
Per DTI-NCR Permit# 3698 Series of 2002.

Sta Lucia Branch
Sta Lucia East Grand Mall
Tel 681-0411

Fil-Invest Branch
Festival Mall, Alabang
Tel 850-3746

Target Mall Branch
Sta Rosa, Laguna
Tel 699-2319

Cubao Branch
P.Tuazon, Cubao, Q.C.
Tel 437-6770

Ortigas Branch
AIC Gold Tower, Ortigas
Tel 637-6422 loc 401

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